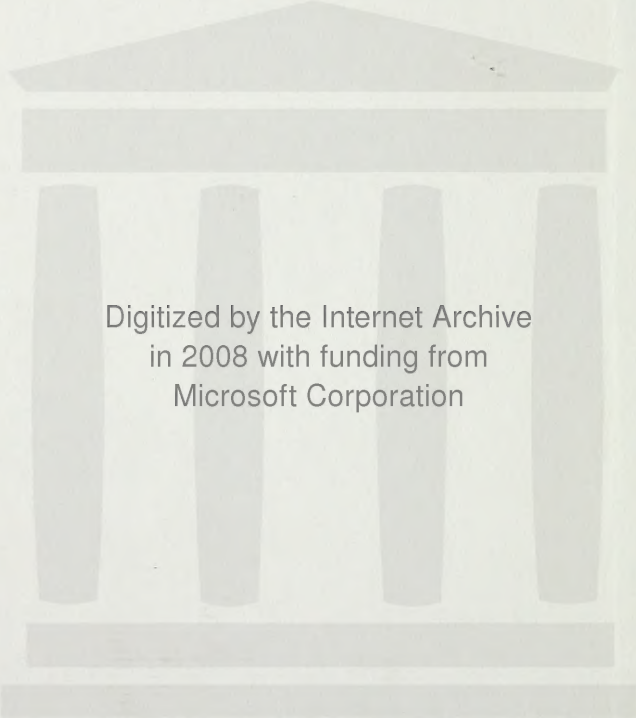


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HISTORY  
OF  
LOUISA COUNTY  
IOWA

From Its Earliest Settlement to 1911

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By ARTHUR SPRINGER

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ILLUSTRATED

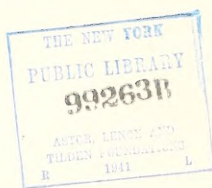
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With Biographical Sketches of Some Prominent Citizens of the County

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VOLUME II

CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1911



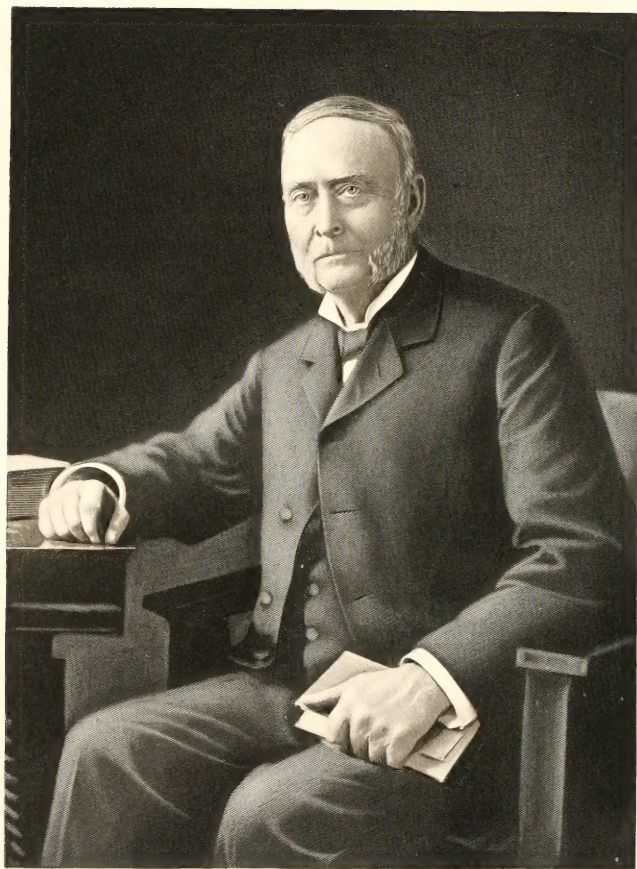


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*E. Frank Brockway*

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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HON. E. FRANK BROCKWAY.

No compendium such as this volume defines in its essential limitations will serve to offer a fitting memorial to the life and record of Hon. E. Frank Brockway, a man whose sterling worth in many relations of life made him a valued citizen, whose memory is enshrined in the hearts of many who knew him, while his name is honored by all who know aught of his active career.

He was born in Brockwayville, Harrison county, Pennsylvania, in 1832, his parents being James M. and Lydia (Goff) Brockway. They were also natives of the Keystone state and there they were married and spent the early years of their domestic life. Prior to his marriage James M. Brockway had been engaged in the lumber business in Pennsylvania and had also operated a sawmill, but after locating in Iowa he followed farming only. In 1840 he built a raft with a cabin on it, a sort of a crude house-boat, and placing all of his household goods within, together with his wife and eight children, started down the Ohio river for Iowa. When they reached the Mississippi they came north to Muscatine, where they landed, having been en route six weeks. Mr. Brockway filed upon some government land in Orono township, Muscatine county, in the cultivation of which he engaged until his death in 1874. Of the eight children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Brockway only two survive: Emmet, who is living in Marshalltown, Iowa; and Albina, who is the widow of James R. Letts, of Grand View township. Those deceased are: Lafayette, Elmira, Judson, E. Frank, Emmet and George. The mother of these children only survived about sixteen years after they located in Iowa, her demise occurring in 1856.

E. Frank Brockway was the fourth child born unto his parents. He was a lad of eight years when the family settled in Muscatine county, in whose district schools he acquired the greater portion of his preliminary education, this being later supplemented by a collegiate course. Having decided to become an agriculturist after leaving college he engaged in farming and stock-raising, which vocation continued to occupy his attention during the remainder of his life. He commenced his agricultural career on a farm which he had entered from the government in Orono township, Muscatine county. This he operated until 1866, when he sold and moved to Washington county, Iowa, where he acquired by purchase from time to time six hundred and forty acres of fine land. He operated this until 1902, then sold and came to Louisa county, where he bought eight hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivated until the time of his de-

mise. This property is located on sections 20 and 21 of Grand View township and is one of the most attractive places in the county. The land is all in a high state of cultivation, the buildings substantially constructed and modern, while the grounds are tastefully arranged and carefully kept up. Possessing intelligence, good business ability and keen judgment, Mr. Brockway directed his affairs with the sagacity which invariably brings success in any undertaking, and at the time of his demise owned one of the most valuable farms in this section of the state.

For his wife and helpmate he chose Miss Rowena B. Letts, their union being solemnized on the 11th of September, 1860. Mrs. Brockway is a native of Peru, La Salle county, Illinois, and a daughter of N. M. and Elizabeth (Grove) Letts, natives of Licking county, Ohio. Mr. Letts and Miss Grove were married in Ottawa, Illinois, where they first met, and soon thereafter located on a farm in the vicinity of Peru, where the mother passed away on the 17th of February, 1851. Two children were born of this union, a son and a daughter: Rowena B., now Mrs. Brockway; and David G., who is deceased. Two years after the demise of his first wife Mr. Letts was again married, his choice this time being Miss Jane Holderman, who was born in Ohio. Six children were born of this marriage, one of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Willis H., who passed away at the age of forty-eight years; James H., who is residing in Louisa county; Hilton M., who was fifty-four at the time of his demise; Emma, the wife of J. W. Waters, of Santa Cruz, California; and Noah R., who is living in Letts.

Immediately following their marriage, which occurred in Louisa county, Iowa, Mr. Brockway and his bride settled on his farm in Muscatine county. They became the parents of three children: Elizabeth B., a graduate of the Eastern Iowa Normal School, now residing with her mother; Alice R., who is a graduate of the Iowa State University, still at home; and James M. As both Mr. and Mrs. Brockway were college bred and realized the value and advantage of education they gave their children excellent opportunities in that direction.

The political allegiance of Mr. Brockway was always given to the republican party. He studied closely the questions and issues of the day and his support was the result of intelligent understanding of the essential features of every question. He took an active and prominent part in all public affairs and, while residing in Washington county, filled the office of supervisor and was also representative in the state legislature for two years. Being possessed of more than average executive ability, he was elected president of the state fair association, which position he filled for several years, and was also a member of the agricultural board. A strong advocate of prohibition, he ever gave his indorsement and support to every movement which would in any way tend to advance the cause of temperance. His religious affiliation, as is that of his wife and family, was with the Methodist Episcopal church. He passed away on the 20th of April, 1908, at which time Louisa county suffered the loss of one of her most capable agriculturists, competent business men and public-spirited and progressive citizens.



## EDWARD LOGAN McCLURKIN.

One of the pioneer families of Louisa county and Morning Sun is represented in the banking circles of this town in the person of Edward Logan McClurkin, whose birth occurred on the 20th of August, 1857. He is the son of the late Henry and Nancy J. (Logan) McClurkin, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Indiana. The father, who was a stock buyer and shipper located in Morning Sun in 1855, where for several years he was engaged in the mercantile business, and during which time he also acted as postmaster. Seven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin; Margaret, the wife of M. Ochiltree, of this city; Kate, who married R. M. Pomeroy, of Shelby, Iowa; E. L., our subject; William H., of Morning Sun; Martin L. and Norah, both of whom are deceased; and one who died in infancy.

The preliminary education of Edward Logan McClurkin was acquired in the public schools of his native city, the course of which he completed in 1876, being one of the first graduates from the high school. Subsequently he attended the State University at Iowa City for a year and a half. Returning home he assisted his father in the store and postoffice, where he remained until 1886. He then joined his brother-in-law, William Beck, in establishing the Exchange Bank, of which institution he is now the cashier.

Mr. McClurkin was united in marriage on the 10th of November, 1881, to Miss Cassie A. Beck, a daughter of Conrad and Sophia Beck, natives of Germany but for many years residents of Des Moines county, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin have been born the following children: Oak B., a resident of Morning Sun; Elizabeth Jane, the wife of F. C. Selzer, of Detroit, Michigan; Clifford H., who is attending college at Monmouth, Illinois; and Justus Logan, who is at home.

Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin hold membership in the United Presbyterian church, and his political support he grants to the candidates of the republican party. He has always been quite prominently identified with the political activities of the community and has several times served as mayor, while he has three times represented his district in the state legislature. A public-spirited, progressive citizen and capable business man Mr. McClurkin stands high in the esteem of the general community, where he has spent practically the entire period of his life and where the comrades of his youth are the friends of his manhood.

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EWALD M. WERNER.

A large portion of the citizens of Iowa are either of German birth or descent, and among those who were born in the fatherland is numbered Ewald M. Werner. His birth occurred on the 9th of September, 1864, his parents being Adam and Eva (Rank) Werner, also natives of that country. They never left their native land, the mother there passing away in 1871. The father still sur-

vives, however, and is a weaver by trade. In their family were five children, as follows: Christ, of Louisa county; David, still residing in Germany; Henrietta, who is married and also lives in Germany; Louisa, the wife of George Dilchert, of Muscatine, Iowa; and Ewald M., of this review.

In the fatherland the latter spent the early years of his life, and was but seventeen years of age when, in 1881, he came to the United States, determining to seek a new home and fortune in the new world. He at once made his way to Iowa, settling in Louisa county, where he worked as a farm hand by the month for ten years. Desirous, however, that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, he started out for himself at the end of that period, renting a farm for about a year. He then purchased a small farm which he sold seven years later, at which time he invested in the farm which he now owns and occupies, a tract of one hundred and ninety acres, located on section 35, in Grand View township. He has since added to this purchase until his property today includes two hundred and thirty acres of good land, of which about two hundred acres are under a very high state of cultivation. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and in all of his work he is progressive, employing the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, while his close study has given him thorough and accurate knowledge concerning the best methods of raising stock. He makes a specialty of Chester White hogs and Hereford cattle, and has some very fine animals on his place.

Mr. Werner was married, on the 4th of March, 1891, to Miss Vada Hunter, who was born in Port Louisa, May 10, 1865. Her parents, John and Matilda (Wagner) Hunter, were both born in Pennsylvania, from which state they removed to Wisconsin at an early day. After residing in the latter state for a short time they came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1860, locating in Port Louisa. The father, a tailor by trade, was engaged in that occupation until his death, which occurred in 1897. The mother survived him for two years, passing away in 1899. In their family were three children, of whom Mrs. Werner is the youngest. The others are: Marcellus, of Wapello; and Lillie, who has taught school for many years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Werner have been born seven children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Carl D., born January 9, 1892, a high school graduate; Helen, born March 22, 1894, who has received a good musical education; Wayne, born March 13, 1896; Ernst, born February 13, 1901; Fay, born January 15, 1904; and Mabel, born March 23, 1908.

The family attend the Congregational church and are well known and prominent in the community in which they reside. Mr. Werner gives his political support to the republican party, deeming the principles of that organization best adapted to conserve public welfare. He has never held office, however, other than that of member of the school board, preferring that his service as a citizen should be done in a private rather than public capacity. He has concentrated his entire energies upon the conduct of his private business, and this close attention has been one of the salient factors in his present prosperity. Throughout his career he has exemplified many of the sturdy traits of character for which

the people of the German race and lineage have ever been noted, to which he has added the enterprising American spirit which has constituted the foundation of the country's commercial greatness.

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### J. C. SMITH.

Louisa county has been signally favored in the class of men who have filled her public offices, for on the whole they are those to whom the word citizenship is no mere idle term. They have been faithful to the duties and obligations devolving upon them and of this class J. C. Smith is a representative, fearlessly discharging the duties of the office of sheriff for the third term. He was born in this county on the 3d of April, 1856, his parents being William S. and Caroline (Smith) Smith, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1838, Mr. Smith soon after entering a tract of land. His demise here occurred February 9, 1873, while his wife was called to her final rest April 19, 1903, the community thus losing two of its respected pioneer residents. They were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are yet living.

J. C. Smith obtained his education in the common schools and when a youth of eighteen began earning his own livelihood, working as a farm hand for two years. He then devoted his attention to the operation of a rented farm for two years or until the time of his marriage. Following that important event in his life he purchased a tract of land in Wapello township, Louisa county, residing thereon for eight years. On the expiration of that period he traded the property for a farm in Oakland township, this county, being successfully engaged in its further cultivation and improvement for ten years. At the end of that time he traded the place for a farm in Concord township, where he resided for six years before disposing of his land. Subsequently he spent eighteen months in Columbus Junction and then purchased another farm in Oakland township, making his home thereon for four years. Since disposing of that property he has resided in Wapello. He now owns city residence property in Des Moines and has long been numbered among the prosperous and representative citizens of the community.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Smith chose Miss Elmira Frizell, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of J. O. and Eliza (Webster) Frizell, who were born in Ohio and came to this county about 1836, locating on what is now known as the Lambert farm. Mr. Frizell here passed away January 24, 1908, but his widow still survives him and makes her home in Louisa county, having now attained the age of seventy-four years. Unto them were born nine children. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one daughter, Eliza Berdella, who is the wife of R. L. Singleton, an agriculturist of Louisa county, by whom she has two children, Alma and Ray.

Mr. Smith gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has been three times honored by election to the office of sheriff—in 1906, 1908 and 1910. As the county usually has a republican majority of about one thousand his election plainly indicates his popularity and the confidence reposed in him by the general public. It requires a man of courage, strength of character and good judgment to fill the position of sheriff in such a way as to meet the approval of the taxpayers of a county. Mr. Smith has so conducted the office as to merit the commendation of all law-abiding citizens, also promoting a wholesome regard for law throughout the county. Both he and his wife have spent their entire lives in Louisa county and enjoy an extensive and favorable acquaintance within its borders.

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S. E. GATES.

One of the prominent and affluent citizens of Oakville is S. E. Gates, who is now living retired. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 9th of May, 1850, a son of Seth and Lydia (Andrews) Gates. The father was a native of the state of New York, and the mother of Massachusetts. They were among the pioneer settlers of western Illinois, having located in Mercer county in 1846. There the father passed away in 1876 and in 1878 the mother removed to Missouri, where she continues to reside at the age of eighty-six years. Of the nine children born to them six are still living.

Educated in the public schools and reared in the country, S. E. Gates remained a member of the paternal household and assisted in the work of the farm until he was married. Subsequent to this event he came to Iowa, settling in Louisa county in 1871 when his earthly possessions consisted of seventy-five dollars, and here he continued to reside for five years. At the expiration of that period he returned to Mercer county, where he remained until 1888, when he removed to Des Moines county. Here he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits, in which he met with most gratifying success, acquiring one thousand acres of land. He continued to reside upon his farm in Des Moines county until 1896, when he retired and removed to Oakville, where he has continuously resided with the exception of six months which he spent in Des Moines. Mr. Gates has been extensively engaged in the real-estate business and has large land interests, owning two hundred and twenty acres of land in Des Moines county, a similar amount in Indiana, three hundred and twenty acres in Minnesota and four thousand and twenty acres in Texas, in addition to which he has a brick business building and two residences in Oakville and is one of the stockholders and directors of the Oakville State Savings Bank. He has made twenty-six trips to Texas and in September, 1908, chartered a whole train for the purpose of taking land seekers to that state. The Oakville band accompanied the excursion, which cost Mr. Gates and those associated with him over five thousand dollars, but they sold seventeen thousand and two hundred acres of land and one hundred and ninety-six town lots.





*S. E. Sales*



Mr. Gates has been married twice, his first wife being Miss Mary E. Ogle, of Keithsburg, Illinois, their wedding being celebrated in June, 1871. They were the parents of five daughters: Zoie E., who married Allen Russell, of Louisa county; Estella, the wife of William Williams, of Missouri; Cordie, who married James O. Waterhouse, of Oakville; Bessie, the wife of Edward C. Waterhouse, also of Oakville; and Fernie, who is deceased. Mrs. Gates passed away on the 16th of January, 1898, and on the 22d of July, 1903, Mr. Gates was united in marriage to Mrs. Edith (Wycoff) Cowan, a native of Adair county, Iowa. By this union has been born two daughters: Lillian C. and Everetta Uvista.

Mr. Gates always casts his ballot for the men and measures of the democratic party and has held several township offices. Both he and Mrs. Gates are members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with the Old Fellows, being affiliated with Keithsburg (Illinois) Lodge, No. 182, I. O. O. F. A man possessing more than average business acumen, Mr. Gates has by his judicious direction and keen judgment been able to not only avail himself of opportunities but to create them, and by this means has attained the position he holds today in the community where he is residing.

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### J. S. McCHESNEY.

It is doubtful whether any citizen of Wapello stands higher in the respect of the people than J. S. McChesney. For thirty years he has been identified with the coal business in this city and he ranks as one of its most reliable and successful business men. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, May 11, 1856, a son of J. T. S. and Rebecca (Clark) McChesney, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ireland. The father learned the cooper's trade but changed his vocation after arriving in Illinois and engaged for several years in farming in that state. In 1860 he came with his family to Louisa county, Iowa, and purchased a farm of one thousand acres, upon which he established his homestead. He died December 12, 1869, but the mother lived almost forty years longer, being called away in January, 1908. There were five children in their family, namely: John T., who now makes his home in Wapello; Nathan C., who resides in the state of Washington; Ruth, who is the wife of David Stephens, of Louisa county; Margaret J., who married Dr. W. W. Nye, of Hiawatha, Kansas; and J. S.

Mr. McChesney of this review attended the district schools and as he grew to manhood assisted in work upon the home farm, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with the details of agriculture and stock-raising. At the age of twenty-one he began farming upon one hundred and forty acres which he owned, but four years later he sold his place and engaged in the grocery business in Wayne county, Iowa. After another period of four years he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land in Louisa county, but later disposed of it and settled at Wapello, engaging in the coal business with which he has since been iden-

tified. He has for years been known as the principal coal dealer of the state. He keeps in close touch with the markets and as he knows where to purchase and understands the needs of his patrons he rarely fails to give satisfaction.

On the 15th of October, 1877, Mr. McChesney was married to Miss Emily Mallory, a daughter of Willard and Jane (Hook) Mallory. There were eight children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Mallory, of whom the following are now living, namely: John B., who makes his home at Los Angeles, California; Mary, who became the wife of Edwin Joy, of San Francisco; Edward, of Lakeside, California; Charles, also of San Francisco; Frank G., of Los Angeles; Emily, who is now Mrs. J. S. McChesney; and William, also of Los Angeles. Two children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. McChesney: Mary, who married J. B. Cecil, of Wapello; and Gladys, who is living at home.

Mr. McChesney has been a supporter of the democratic party ever since he cast his first ballot and has taken an active part in local politics. He served as mayor of Wapello for four years, his last term expiring in the fall of 1910. In religious faith he adheres to the Presbyterian church. He has been prominent in fraternal circles for a number of years and is a valued member of the Masonic order, the Odd Fellows, the Woodmen and the Rebekahs. As a public officer he discharged his duties fairly and impartially and as a private citizen he has ever attempted to merit the good-will of his associates and the entire community.

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#### WILLIAM D. STORKS.

William D. Storks, who was called to his final rest April 6, 1911, was successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and lived in honorable retirement at Oakville for a number of years prior to his demise. His birth occurred in Ohio on the 30th of August, 1835, his parents being David and Eliza (Davis) Storks, both of whom were natives of Delaware and are now deceased. Unto them were born four children, namely: Hester, Ann, and Susan, all of whom have passed away; and William D., of this review.

The last named began earning his own livelihood when a youth of sixteen, securing employment as a farm hand. He came to Iowa in 1856 and was employed at farm labor until he had accumulated sufficient capital to purchase some land of his own, coming into possession of a tract of one hundred and seventy acres. The cultivation and improvement of that farm claimed his attention from 1866 until 1883, when he put aside the active work of the fields, disposed of the property and removed to Oakville, where he built a residence and made his home throughout the remainder of his life. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company K, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, remaining with the command for three years. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, was taken prisoner there and remained captive for three months. In November, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa.



On the 18th of December, 1862, Mr. Storks was united in marriage to Miss Sarah P. Anderson, a daughter of Thomas and Ann (Prouse) Anderson, both of whom are deceased. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: John, who died in the Civil war; Mrs. Storks; George W., who is a resident of New Mexico; Margaret, the wife of John Lett, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Eliza J., the deceased wife of Enoch Hayden, of Wapello; William, deceased; Martha R., the deceased wife of Rastus Wilson, of Kingston, Iowa; Lloyd, who has also passed away; Charles A., living in New Boston, Illinois; and one who died in infancy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Storks were born six children: Theodore M., who is a resident of Oakville; David W., of Wapello; one who died in infancy; Anna E., the wife of W. H. Miller, of Quenemo, Kansas; Eliza V., who is the wife of A. J. McCannon and resides in Denver, Colorado; and Cora Lilly, the wife of Lawrence Kurtz, of Knoxville, Iowa.

Mr. Storks gave his political allegiance to the republican party and held a number of minor township offices. In religious belief he was a Methodist, passing away in the faith of that church on the 6th of April, 1911,—the anniversary of the day on which he was captured at Shiloh. His death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for he had long been a respected resident of this community and had gained an extensive circle of friends.

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### FRED M. MOLSBERRY.

Fred M. Molsberry, a successful lawyer of Columbus Junction of nearly twenty years' experience, and an ex-senator, was born at Plymouth, Iowa, May 22, 1866, a son of Joseph M. and Jemima Jane (Pitman) Molsberry. The father was a native of Indiana and moved from that state to Michigan in 1856. At Niles, Michigan, he was married to Jemima J. Pitman. They came to Iowa and first made their home in Cerro Gordo county, then at Rock Falls, and finally became permanently established upon a homestead near Plymouth. Mr. Molsberry was a successful farmer and is now deceased.

Reared on the home farm, Fred M. Molsberry attended the district schools and later, having decided to devote his attention to the law, matriculated in the State University at Iowa City where he took a course of two years, graduating in May, 1892, with the degree of LL. B. Immediately after leaving the university he located at Columbus Junction in the practice of his profession, displaying from the start an ability that gave every assurance of marked success. He has taken an active part in politics and was elected county attorney and filled the office to the general satisfaction of his constituents for three terms. In November, 1901, he was elected to the Iowa state senate to represent Louisa and Muscatine counties, entering upon his duties January 1, 1902. His term was extended for one year so that he served altogether for five years. He was a member of the judiciary and other important committees and proved one of the most useful men in the senate.

At the close of his term of office he resumed practice and has since devoted his attention to his profession with renewed vigor and with very satisfactory results. He has also taken a very active part in business affairs and is a member of the board of directors of the Cotter Savings Bank of Cotter, and is secretary and a member of the board of directors of the Columbus Junction Telephone Company, which office he has held ever since the organization of the company in 1901. He has made some good investments in land and is an extensive land-owner.

In August, 1893, Mr. Molsberry was married to Miss Cora Oliver, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a daughter of E. W. and M. J. Oliver, who were in the territory of Oklahoma when it was opened for settlement and when town lots were laid out for sale in Oklahoma City. Both parents are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Molsberry an only daughter, Effie Lucille, has been born. She is now fifteen years of age.

Fraternally Mr. Molsberry is identified with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He has been very active in the latter organization and has filled all the chairs in the lodge. In August, 1903, he was elected grand chancellor of the state of Iowa, discharging his duties in such a way as to meet the approval of members of the organization throughout the entire commonwealth. He is not identified with any religious denomination but his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a self-made man and has fairly won through his own efforts the responsible position he occupies in Louisa county. As he possesses a steady and purposeful will, which is under intelligent guidance, he has gained more than an ordinary measure of success and is in the enjoyment of a competence that gives promise of a steady increase in years to come.

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#### WILLIAM M. WILSON.

For many years agricultural pursuits engaged the attention of William M. Wilson, who since 1906 has been living retired in Morning Sun, where he owns a very pleasant residence. He was born in Washington county, Illinois, on the 26th of May, 1838, and is a son of John and Isabella (McClure) Wilson, the father a native of Ireland and the mother of South Carolina. The family migrated to Iowa in 1830, where the father entered some government land, upon which he erected a log cabin that served as a home for several years thereafter. Here the mother passed away on the 31st of May, 1866, but he survived until the 27th of December, 1877, and was laid to rest beside his wife in Brown's cemetery. They were the parents of eight children, but four of whom are now living.

The education of William M. Wilson was somewhat limited, owing to the poor and inadequate provision made for schools in Iowa during his boyhood. He attended the brief and irregular sessions of the district school, which was held in a log house where rough slabs served for benches and the ferule was

deemed just as essential a factor of education as the text-book. After laying aside his school books he assisted in the cultivation of the farm, remaining at home until he was twenty-one. He subsequently engaged in farming on a tract of land which he obtained from his father and to which he later added by purchase until he had acquired one hundred and seventy-five acres. Here he engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1906, at which time he retired and moved to Morning Sun. A large portion of his farm having been the homestead on which he spent his boyhood and youth, Mr. Wilson had lived on this place for sixty-eight years at the time of his retirement. He engaged in general farming, making a specialty of raising and feeding cattle, and had acquired a very fine property and comfortable competence, being so situated now that he enjoys the ease assured by an income sufficiently large to provide all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Wilson was married in 1864 to Miss Miriam Conway, a native of England, her natal day being the 6th of July, 1843, and a daughter of Samuel and Margaret Conway, who started for the United States in 1850, but the mother passed away on board of the vessel and was buried in the Gulf of Mexico. The family located in Des Moines county, Iowa. There were six children but only two are now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born the following children: Winona, the wife of G. J. Wilson, of Des Moines county; William G., who is a resident of Louisa county; Samuel F., also of this county; Leah R., who married T. D. Wilson, now living in the state of Washington; Nellie, who was born on the 18th of September, 1873, and died on the 13th of December, 1893; John who is living in Des Moines county; Sarah E., who married B. C. Owens, of Henry county; Clarissa, who is deceased; R. G., who is a resident of the state of Washington; James H., who lives in this county; and Mary E., who is at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the United Presbyterian church, and his political support he gives to the republican party but has never held office. Practically the entire life of Mr. Wilson has been spent in Louisa county upon the farm which was endeared to him by the associations of his youth as well as those of later years.

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#### BRAINARD H. SHEARER.

Brainard H. Shearer, editor of the Columbus Gazette, a thriving weekly newspaper of Columbus Junction, was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa, December 15, 1881. His parents were Jacob L. and Laura (Plasterer) Shearer, both of whom were natives of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. The father was born September 15, 1856, and the mother on November 26th of the same year. They were married in their native state and came to Iowa in 1881, settling at Ida Grove, which has ever since been the family home. They were the parents of five children, namely: Brainard H., of this review; and Bessie, Florence,

Frances and Harold, all of whom are at home. The paternal grandfather, Henry Shearer, was born and reared in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and resided there for some years after his marriage. Eventually he removed to the west where he lived to a ripe old age. His wife passed away in early womanhood. The maternal grandfather, John Plasterer, lived to be ninety years old.

After receiving his preliminary education in the district schools Brainard H. Shearer entered the Ida Grove high school, from which he was graduated in 1902. He taught school for two terms and then matriculated at Drake University, where he continued for one year. He was engaged for the next two years in the newspaper business in various parts of the state, gaining practical knowledge both as a writer and manager, which is very important in this line of work. In 1909 he came to Columbus Junction and purchased the Columbus Gazette, to which he has since devoted his attention with excellent results. This paper was established in 1887 by I. O. Jamison, who died in 1908, after which it was managed by his widow for about a year. The Gazette is unique in two respects—it is the only democratic newspaper in the county, and it has the largest circulation of any newspaper in the county.

Mr. Shearer is a staunch adherent of the principles of the democratic party and ably expresses his views on all questions relating to the state and nation. He is a clear and vigorous writer and also possesses the business qualities so necessary for the successful management of any important enterprise. His religious belief is indicated by membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### HOMER A. MATTHEWS.

One of the agriculturists of Louisa county who went to the front in the Union cause in the '60s is Homer A. Matthews, who for many years has been a resident of Jefferson township. He was born in Louisa county on the 6th of April, 1844, and is a son of Solomon B. and Emily (Bras) Matthews, natives of Ohio, from which state they migrated to Iowa in 1837. The father, who was a miller, followed his trade until he passed away in July, 1852. The mother survived for thirty years thereafter, her demise occurring in October, 1882. They were the parents of two sons, H. N., who is a resident of this county; and Homer A., our subject.

The education of Homer A. Matthews was pursued in the common schools of this county, following the completion of which he engaged in agricultural pursuits, remaining at home until the opening of the Civil war. Enlisting in September, 1862, in Company I, First Missouri Engineering Corps, he went to the front where he served for over two years, being mustered out at Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 10, 1864. He helped build the fortifications, etc., at nearly all the places where his command participated in a great battle. After receiving his discharge he returned home and again engaged in farming with which occupation he has ever since been identified.

On August 13, 1875, Mr. Matthews was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Kimble, a native of Catlin, New York, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Ann (Bush) Kimble, also natives of the Empire state. They migrated from New York to Illinois, locating in Boone county in 1851, and in that state they resided for twenty-three years. In 1874 they removed to Iowa, settling in Louisa county, where the mother passed away on the 16th of August, 1874, and the father on the 9th of September, 1875. Three children were born unto them: Piney, the widow of J. W. Willard, who is residing in Crook, Colorado; Caroline, now Mrs. Matthews; and Ansel W., who is living on a farm in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthews had six children, the order of their births being as follows: Frank H., who was born on the 22d of September, 1876; Eila, who was born on the 12th of August, 1878, and is now the wife of M. Sillick, of this county; Lena E., who was born on the 3d of September, 1880, and is teaching school; Edgar A., born on the 1st of July, 1882; Emily M., who is also a school teacher, born on the 20th of February, 1884; and Hiram Leroy, who was born on the 1st of October, 1886.

An ardent republican, Mr. Matthews always gives his political support to the men and measures of that body. He takes an active and helpful interest in township affairs and has served as school director as well as road supervisor. He is a man of unobtrusive character who discharges his duties as a citizen with the same loyalty and unity of purpose which marked his service as a soldier.

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#### P. L. PEARSALL.

The beautiful art of photography is very creditably represented at Wapello by P. L. Pearsall, who during the past four years has maintained a studio in this place. He is a native of Linn county, Iowa, born at Center Point, December 12, 1886, and is a son of J. H. and Susan (Shaffer) Pearsall, who were born in Indiana and Iowa respectively. The father came to this state about 1857 and located in Linn county, where he has ever since made his residence. He is now sixty-two years of age. The mother died in 1907 at the age of fifty-nine. There were seven children in their family, namely: Cora, who is the wife of W. T. Clark, of Sherwood, North Dakota; Ella, who married W. M. Brown, of Walker, Iowa; Lewis, who lives at Center Point, Iowa; Edith, the wife of H. J. Crosmer of Tripp, South Dakota; Agnes, who became the wife of O. D. Church, of Conde, South Dakota; P. L., of this review; and Lotta, who married Frank Routh, of Wapello.

P. L. Pearsall possessed advantages of education in the common schools and pursued his studies also in the high school. At the age of sixteen he was attracted to the photographic business, to which he has ever since given his attention. He came to Wapello in 1907 and opened a studio upon his own account, being the only photographer in this place. As he has fine artistic talent

and good taste and from boyhood made a close study of nature and art, his success as a photographer was from the start assured. He takes very great interest in his work and his patrons speak in high terms of his ability. It is evident that he made no mistake in the selection of a vocation.

On the 15th of April, 1907, Mr. Pearsall was married to Miss Lena Davis, a daughter of Oscar and Inez (Battleson) Davis, in whose family were two children, the other being Mamie, who is living at home with her parents.

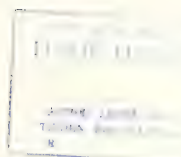
Mr. Pearsall has voted the republican ticket ever since he cast his first ballot and is a staunch supporter of the principles of the party. Religiously he gives his adherence to the Christian church and his life is largely controlled by the teachings of the great book on which the church is founded. He is now well established in a lucrative and growing business, and is enjoying prosperity, which he has earned through well directed application. His future gives promise of increasing honor and usefulness.

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### CHARLES FATH.

One of the well cultivated farms of Port Louisa township is the homestead of Charles Fath, which contains one hundred and fifty-three acres of land, located upon section 23. He was born in Germany October 20, 1837, and is a son of Christian and Rosina (Kaiser) Fath, who were born and married in the fatherland, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1846. Upon their arrival in this country they first located in the vicinity of Buffalo, New York, where they resided until 1854 at which time they came to Iowa, settling upon a small tract of land in Louisa county. After cultivating this for several years they sold it and bought eighty acres of timber which the father cleared and cultivated until his demise in 1875. His wife had passed away two years previously. They were the parents of the following children: Christian, who passed away at the age of thirty-seven years; George, who was eighty-three at the time of his demise, which occurred in Wapello in 1910; Rosina, also deceased, who was the wife of Fred Kremer, of Louisa county; Sarah, the deceased wife of John Keck, of Joy, Illinois; Charles, our subject; Jacob, who is a resident of Terry, Iowa; Magdeline, deceased, who was the wife of the late Mathias Bissinger, of Louisa county; and Sophia, who is living at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Being but a lad of eight years when his family emigrated to the new world, Charles Fath has spent practically his entire life in the land of his adoption, in the common schools of which he acquired his education. After laying aside his school books he assisted his father in the work of the farm until he attained his majority, at which time he left home to begin life on his own account as an agriculturist, having decided upon that for his vocation. He first rented land which he cultivated for four years and during that period he managed to save enough from his income to purchase forty acres. Later he traded this prop-







MRS. CHARLES FATH



CHARLES FATH



erty for his father's farm, which he bought from the other heirs and which formed the nucleus of his present homestead. Since settling upon the old home place Mr. Fath has added to his property from time to time until he now owns one hundred and fifty-three acres, one hundred of which are under a high state of cultivation. He has always engaged in general farming and stock-raising, in which he has met with moderate success.

On the 18th of September, 1861, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fath and Miss Charlotte Dollarhide, who was born in Wapello on the 22d of February, 1845. She is a daughter of Austin and Mary (Bedwell) Dollarhide, natives of Kentucky, from which state they removed to Iowa, crossing the prairies in a wagon in the '40s among the very early settlers of Louisa county. Shortly after locating upon their farm Mrs. Dollarhide passed away, her demise occurring in 1845, following which Mr. Dollarhide enlisted and went to the front in the Mexican war, from which he never returned. Two children were born of this union: Jane, who passed away in 1906, the wife of Thomas Allen, of Fairfield, Iowa; and Charlotte. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fath, two of whom died in infancy; Emma, who passed away on the 16th of December, 1910, at the age of thirty-eight years, the wife of Howard Marshall, of Gunnison county, Colorado; Ida, who was born in June, 1867, and was the wife of Howard Leyda, a printer, of Chicago; Leroy A., who was born on the 22d of February, 1880, and is a bookkeeper at the arsenal in Davenport; and Guy M., whose birth occurred on the 25th of April, 1883, and who is still at home.

The family attend the Presbyterian church, of which they are members, and in politics Mr. Fath is affiliated with the republican party. Although he is not an office seeker he has served on the local school board, having been a member of that body for one term. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fath are among the old and well known settlers of the county, which has developed in an almost incredible manner within the period of their recollection.

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### JOHN STERETT.

In all probability John Sterett is the oldest inhabitant in Morning Sun when considered as a continuous resident, as every building in the city with the exception of one was erected after he located here. He is a son of James and Isabella (Crawford) Sterett, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Ohio. James Sterett, who was a tanner and harness-maker, as well as farmer, migrated to Louisa county in 1853, settling in Morning Sun, where he resided continuously until his demise in 1884. His wife passed away in 1866. Of the six children born unto them but one besides our subject is living: James, who is also a resident of Morning Sun. The four who are deceased were: William, who was the eldest; Robert, who was captured by the Confeder-

ates during the Civil war and consigned to Libby prison, where he died: David, who was killed in battle; and Nancy E., the only daughter.

John Sterett was eighteen years of age when he removed to Iowa and located upon eighty acres of land which is now within the corporate limits of Morning Sun. He engages in general farming but has always made a specialty of the breeding and raising of Black Hawk Morgan horses, having sold some of his at one thousand dollars a piece.

On the 16th of April, 1857, Mr. Sterett was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Brown, a daughter of Hamilton and Sarah (Ramsey) Brown, who were the parents of ten children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sterett were born two sons: Edward, who was born in 1858 and passed away in 1889; and William R., who was born in September, 1860, and is a resident of Des Moines.

His first vote Mr. Sterett cast for John C. Fremont in Morning Sun precinct and has ever since voted there. He assisted in arranging the first Fourth of July celebration ever held in the place and has participated in the observation of every succeeding anniversary of the Nation's birth, having spent fifty-eight Fourths in Morning Sun. Mr. Sterett is a public-spirited, as well as patriotic citizen, and has always striven to fulfill his civic duties and toward this end has served in various township offices. He belongs to the Fremont Association, of which he was one of the organizers and at one time vice president, and was president of the Old Settlers Association, when Mr. Springer assumed the duties as local historian of these volumes, appointing Mr. Sterett as one of the advisory board. Religiously he affiliates with the Presbyterian church, in which his wife also held membership. Mr. Sterett went to Des Moines to visit his son on the 29th of November, 1910, and upon his return home the following Saturday he found Mrs. Sterett dead. She was lying on the floor and from all indications the physicians decided that death must have occurred on the morning Mr. Sterett left. Mr. Sterett, who has now reached the venerable age of seventy-six years relates many interesting reminiscences of the early days of his residence here when pioneer customs still prevailed.

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#### DAVID S. BUFFINGTON.

There is no more familiar figure on the streets of Columbus Junction than that of Mayor David S. Buffington, whose active interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of the town and county has won for him a host of friends. He was born on a farm a few miles southeast of Columbus Junction, February 4, 1843, his father, James Q. Buffington, being one of the pioneer settlers of Louisa county. The father came to Iowa from Meigs county, Ohio, and first took up his residence in Marion county, near Pella, where he preempted a quarter section of land. He did not remain long in that locality, however, but disposed of his property and came to Louisa county in 1842. Here he located on government land, acquiring about a thousand acres for which he paid a

dollar and a quarter per acre. In addition to farming he conducted the first grist mill in the vicinity of Columbus Junction and became known throughout a wide area of the surrounding country.

Prior to leaving Ohio he had married Miss Eliza A. Sleath, also a native of Meigs county. Of the children born to this union six survive, namely: Joseph R., a resident of Nebraska; David S., of this review; Mrs. Eliza Ellen Genzer; Mary C., who married Henry Schultz, and resides in the southern part of Kansas; Annie, the wife of Edward Dove, also a resident of southern Kansas; and Abraham Perry, who is now a major in the United States Army and is stationed in the Philippine Islands. Mr. Buffington was a true father to his children and as they reached maturity he gave to each an equal share of land, thus enabling them to make a good start in life. He ultimately disposed of the remainder of his holdings in this county and bought a farm of two hundred acres in Lucas county, Iowa, upon which he and his wife took up their residence. He died in 1889, but the mother survived him for a number of years, her death occurring in 1898.

David S. Buffington attended the country schools of Louisa county and later became a student of Western University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and the Presbyterian College at Washington, Iowa. He attended college at the time of the Civil war and on his last return to the institution he found so few young men in attendance that he gave up the idea of pursuing his studies further, not even moving his trunk from the depot. It was the father's wish that his son should receive a college education, but the times seemed to demand action. After returning home David S. Buffington determined that he would engage in the harness-making business, having received an alluring account of the profits to be made in that line of trade from a man who was thus engaged. His father refused him the five hundred dollars that was necessary in order to make the venture, but he assumed the responsibility on his own account and went into business on credit. He soon found that he was not adapted to this vocation and, having disposed of his interest in the harness shop, began teaching school, which was much more to his taste than standing behind a counter, and he engaged in this calling very successfully for a number of years. He was also connected with the railway mail service but was obliged to resign on account of ill health. He is the local representative of the Iowa State Insurance Company of Keokuk and the Farmers' Insurance Company of Cedar Rapids, and on account of his extensive acquaintance and known reliability of character he has met with a goodly measure of prosperity in this business. Many years ago he became interested in local government and he has served in various official positions, notably those of auditor, justice of the peace—an office which he has held for the last twenty-five years—and is now acceptably filling the office of mayor of Columbus Junction.

In 1865 Mr. Buffington was married to Miss Nancy A. Getz, a daughter of Jacob and Hannah Getz, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, and twelve children were born to this union: James C., who makes his home in Omaha, Nebraska; Annie L., the wife of Dr. Paxton, a veterinary surgeon of Colum-



bus Junction; Florence, who married John Bell, a building contractor of Fort Worth, Texas; Jacob, a resident of Sheridan, Iowa; Albert Perry, of Anaconda, Montana; Maud, now Mrs. J. P. Huston, of Montrose, Iowa; Cora, who married Edward Bergman, of Sheridan; Frank, a resident of Kansas; David S., of Anaconda, Montana; Rutherford B., who makes his home in Los Angeles, California; Bruce, a resident of Anaconda, Montana; and Bessie, the wife of Daniel Lutz, of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The mother of these children died in January, 1902, and in 1903 Mr. Buffington was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Selman, a daughter of Warner and Rebekah (Wolfe) Selman. The father is a native of Maryland and was born November 18, 1818, being now ninety-three years of age. When a young man he emigrated from Maryland to Smithfield, Jefferson county, Ohio, and there married Rebekah Wolfe. She was born at Smithfield, August 7, 1828. Mr. Selman came with his family to Columbus City, Iowa, in 1854 and for twelve years engaged in the cooperage business. He then purchased a farm in Columbus City township upon which he has since resided, having lived there for over forty-five years. Mrs. Selman died on the 28th of September, 1896, and was buried in the cemetery at Columbus City. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Selman became the parents of the following children: Thomas, born September 3, 1848 and who died July 27, 1901; George W., born August 10, 1850, now a resident of Columbus Junction; Mary, now Mrs. David S. Buffington; Eli, born September 1, 1856, who makes his home in Muscatine; Nancy Ann, born November 5, 1858, who married Harry Smith and resides with her father on the old homestead; William, born March 12, 1860, and is now living in Muscatine; Eva, born April 16, 1862, and who is now the wife of William Carter, of Columbus City; Emma, the first wife of William Carter, born August 6, 1864, and who died June 4, 1887; Robert Warner born January 21, 1866, and who died at the age of fourteen, and Lola Ellen, born July 27, 1868, and who died November 5, 1877.

Mr. Buffington is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also actively identified with the Reformed church. His wife is connected with the Christian church but attends services with him. They occupy a pleasant new home immediately adjoining the business district of the city, and in the improvement and beautifying of this home Mayor Buffington finds one of his greatest pleasures.

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#### THURMAN A. DOTSON.

Thurman A. Dotson, a prosperous farmer of Wapello township, is the owner of an eighty acre tract of land located on sections 34 and 35, known as the Twin Willow Farm. He is a native son of Louisa county, his natal day being September 22, 1867. He is a son of David, Jr., and Lydia A. (Bier)



MR. AND MRS. THERMAN A. DOTSON



Dotson, the former born October 15, 1841, in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Louisa county. The father brought his family to Louisa county in an early day and here spent his remaining years, his death occurring in 1906. The mother still survives and yet makes her home in Louisa county on the old home place in Wapello township. Unto them were born five children: Thurman A., of this review; Sionilli, the wife of George Mellinger, of Louisa county; Bazella, the wife of William Westfall, also of this county; Etta, at home; and one who died in infancy.

Thurman A. Dotson was reared on the home farm, early being trained to the duties and labors that fall to the farm lad as he assisted in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting in the spring and summer months, while in the winter seasons he pursued his studies in the district school. When he attained his majority he started out upon an independent business venture, choosing as his life work the occupation to which he was reared. For five years he operated rented land, and at the end of that time began the manufacture of brick and tile in Newport, which he conducted for four years. However, this did not prove congenial to him, and he disposed of his business interests and invested his money in the farm which is now his home, this tract comprising eighty acres on sections 34 and 35, Wapello township. His place, known as the Twin Willow Farm, is well improved with good buildings, while the land has been placed in good condition through the efforts of Mr. Dotson. He makes a specialty of raising seed corn and he also raises good grades of stock.

Mr. Dotson was married November 19, 1889, to Miss Minerva Jamison, who was born in Louisa county, January 29, 1872, a daughter of J. W. and Rachel (Vaughn) Jamison, likewise natives of this county and both still living, their biographies appearing on another page of this work. Mrs. Dotson is the fourth in order of birth in a family of five children, and by her marriage has become the mother of a son and daughter: Walter Elsworth, who was born July 21, 1890, and is still with his parents; and Lois Alta, who was born May 6, 1897.

In his political views and affiliations, Mr. Dotson is a republican and at the present time is serving as assessor of his township, and he is also filling the office of school director. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Protestant church and they enjoy the high regard of a host of friends.

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#### ALVA C. RUSSELL.

A capable representative of the agricultural interests of Louisa county is to be found in Alva C. Russell, who owns two hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, Elliott township. He is a native of this county, his birth having occurred on the 9th of November, 1867, he being the eldest son of the late William S. and Isabell (Kurts) Russell, the father a native of Iowa and the mother of Pennsylvania. Of this union there were born two other children: May, the deceased wife of T. L. Bailey, of Louisa county; and

Myrtle, who is also deceased. The father passed away on the 23d of December, 1910. Mr. Russell was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted and gone to the front in 1861 with Company K, Second Iowa Cavalry. He remained in the service three years, during which time he participated in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth, receiving his discharge at Rock Island, Illinois, in 1864.

After the completion of his education Alva C. Russell turned his attention toward agricultural pursuits, this being the natural inclination of one who had been born and reared upon a farm. He now owns two hundred and sixty acres of Louisa county's fertile land, which is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, in both of which ventures he is meeting with favorable results.

On the 21st of January, 1892, Mr. Russell married Miss Zoie E. Gates, the eldest daughter of S. E. and Mary (Ogle) Gates, whose biographical sketch appears on another page of this volume. Three children blessed this marriage: Lillian, who was born on the 22d of August, 1893; Fred, whose birth occurred on the 29th of August, 1898; and Letha, who was born on the 2d of April, 1903, and died on the 2d of March, 1910.

The family affiliate with the Presbyterian church and Mr. Russell is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Ever since attaining his majority he has given his political support to the candidates of the republican party, but has never aspired to public honors or the emoluments of office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the development of his personal affairs, in which he is meeting with deserved success.

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### GEORGE WILSON GRAHAM.

George Wilson Graham, an enterprising and progressive representative of journalistic interests in Louisa county, is the editor of the Oakville Sentinel, a weekly newspaper. His birth occurred on a farm near Wapello on the 13th of October, 1872, his parents being B. I. and Ann (Blackburn) Graham, both of whom are still living and are numbered among the worthy and respected residents of Wapello. Wilson Graham, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a pioneer settler of Louisa county, and it was here that B. I. Graham was born on the 30th of April, 1846. The maternal grandparents, Samuel and Caroline Blackburn, are both deceased. Mr. Graham of this review is the eldest of a family of four children, the others being as follows: Samuel R., who was born on the 1st of July, 1875, and who is now manager of the Wisconsin Lumber Yards at Peterson, Iowa; Frank R., born May 20, 1880, who is a machinist for the Iowa Central Railroad at Peoria, Illinois; and Jennie M., born April 12, 1885, who is a teacher of English and German in the schools at Chariton, Iowa.

George W. Graham attended the schools of Wapello in the acquirement of an education and was graduated therefrom in 1893. Since putting aside his

text-books he has been identified with journalistic interests, making his first venture in independent newspaper work on the 1st of June, 1902, when he established the Oakville Sentinel for S. H. Creighton of whom he purchased the paper six months later. He has since remained the editor and proprietor of the sheet, which is a non-partisan weekly and is devoted principally to the dissemination of local and general news. It has a circulation of about eight hundred and an excellent advertising patronage.

Politically, where questions of national importance are concerned, Mr. Graham is a republican. Fraternally he is identified with the following organizations: Black Hawk Lodge, No. 281, K. P., of Wapello; Louisa Lodge, No. 19, I. O. O. F., of Wapello; Lodge No. 5, A. F. & A. M., of Wapello; and the Eastern Star. His influence has always been found on the side of material, intellectual and moral development and his work has been an element in the advancement of his native county.

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#### D. D. HAMILTON.

D. D. Hamilton, an agriculturist whose efforts have been attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity, is the owner of three hundred and seventy acres of land, constituting one of the most highly improved farms in Marshall township. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred on the 3d of February, 1850. His parents, Samuel and Mary (Holland) Hamilton, both of whom were natives of Ohio, came to this county in 1840. The father here entered a tract of land and erected a log cabin, making his home therein for several years. He continued to reside in Louisa county throughout the remainder of his life, passing away on the 13th of September, 1886, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 15th of March, 1895.

Samuel Hamilton was widely recognized as a leading business man and, though classed as an agriculturist, turned the active work of the fields over to his sons. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and he was always an active worker in the local ranks of the party but supported Lincoln when the great emancipator was made a presidential candidate for the second time. For more than forty years he served as justice of the peace in Louisa county, his fair and impartial decisions winning him "golden opinions from all sorts of people." He was a devoted and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, doing all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence.

Unto him and his wife were born twelve children, as follows: Ann, whose natal year was 1829 and who has passed away; Alexander, who is a resident of Wapello township; Sarah L., Stephen G. and Susan E., all of whom are deceased; Mary J., the wife of James Banks, of Wapello, Iowa; Lorane, deceased; Lydia M. and Melvina, twins, who died in infancy; another, who died in infancy; D. D., of this review; and Samuel T. who is likewise deceased.

D. J. Hamilton attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. When twenty-one years of age, he secured a tax title to five acres of land and as his financial resources increased owing to his untiring industry and capable management, he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until at the present time his farm embraces three hundred and seventy acres, all of which he cleared of the timber. The many substantial improvements which now adorn the property and which make it one of the model farms of the township stand as monuments to the thrift and enterprise of the owner. Large crops of grain are annually garnered and in connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Hamilton also raises stock, this branch of his business proving to him a profitable source of income.

In 1885 Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage to Miss S. C. Hunt, who was born in Morning Sun township, Louisa county, in 1854, her parents being S. G. and Margaret (Curran) Hunt, who are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of J. C. Hunt, a brother of Mrs. Hamilton. Unto our subject and his wife were born five children, namely: Samuel, whose natal day was December 19, 1886, and who passed away September 13, 1887; Franc M., who was born on the 19th of October, 1888, and now follows the profession of school teaching; Stephen C., who was born on the 17th of November, 1890, and is at home; Mary S., born June 24, 1892, who graduated from the high school at Morning Sun with the class of 1911; and D. D., Jr., whose birth occurred on the 24th of June, 1896, and who is also at home.

Mr. Hamilton is a stalwart democrat in politics but has never sought nor desired the honors and emoluments of office. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. They have spent their entire lives within the borders of Louisa county and are well and favorably known, the hospitality of the best homes of the locality being cordially extended to them.

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#### EDWIN HICKLIN.

Edwin Hicklin, postmaster of Wapello, comes of worthy pioneer ancestry and in the course of a varied and interesting life has shown traits of industry, fortitude and perseverance which were prominent characteristics of the brave men and women who conquered the wilderness. He is a native of Wapello, born September 4, 1867, a son of James Hall and Sarah Ellen (Williams) Hicklin. His maternal grandfather, Robert Williams, was the first white man to build a cabin in the Indian reservation. This was in 1836. The Indians were unfriendly to the intruders from the east, but they respected Mr. Williams on



account of his white hair and beard and he was permitted to dwell among them in safety. His sons, however, were obliged to retire for a time to the protection of the settlements.

The father of our subject came to Iowa with Daniel Ellege, a minister of the gospel, in 1840 and settled in Louisa county. He often referred to the fact that he ate his first supper in this county on the spot where the old mill was later erected near Wapello. After living here a short time he became dissatisfied and walked to Sedalia, Missouri, where he had relatives, but later changed his mind and returned to Louisa county, devoting his attention to farming and running a ferry boat. He also engaged in the mercantile business with several partners. Many emigrants were passing through Iowa into the newly opened west and Mr. Hicklin, who possessed a trustful and generous nature, supplied their wants, holding their promises to pay while they were establishing themselves in their new homes. His faith in human nature, however, led to financial disaster, as many of the bills were never paid, and as a result he was obliged to retire from the mercantile business. He spent the remainder of his life upon a farm. He possessed good fighting blood, which he demonstrated by participating in the Mexican and Civil wars. At the age of eighteen he joined General Taylor's command at Vera Cruz and was one of the mounted guard which rode with the commanding general into the City of Mexico after the surrender of the Mexican capital. He enlisted in Company G, Nineteenth Iowa Regiment, in the Civil war and served as sergeant under Captain A. M. Taylor. He was present at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, but was discharged from the army on account of defective eyesight. There were seven children in his family: Mary F., who is now the wife of Henry Bremner, of Wapello; Martha, who married Rufus M. Archibald, of Wapello; Millard F., also of Wapello; Monroe, who is deceased; Amanda, the wife of Thomas A. Gallagher; James D., of Wapello; and Edwin, of this review.

At the age of seventeen years Edwin Hicklin met with a severe disaster in the loss of his left arm while duck hunting, but he bravely resolved to perform his mission in life regardless of misfortune. He began working at ten cents a day as bookkeeper at the age of eighteen and soon afterward entered newspaper subscription work and also took up the study of shorthand. He taught school for a while and for two years was connected with the county treasurer's office. For five years he was employed in the office of clerk of the district court and performed his work so acceptably that he was elected clerk of the court, a position which he filled for eight years. He was then connected with the law office of H. O. Weaver for a year and for a similar period was cashier of the Wapello State Bank. After giving up this position he entered the law office of C. A. Carpenter, of Columbus Junction, and continued with Mr. Carpenter until May 9, 1910, when he was appointed by President Taft as postmaster of Wapello. Mr. Hicklin is of a genial and accommodating disposition and, as he thoroughly understands progressive business methods, he has met with deserved recognition as one of the most efficient postmasters Wapello has known.

On the 6th of June, 1894, Mr. Hicklin was married to Miss Millicent Reichley, a daughter of George W. and Catherine (Brookhart) Reichley. She was one of a family of eight children: Mary Elizabeth, who married Joseph Meeker, of Muscatine county, and is now deceased; Joseph A., who is living in Minneapolis; Margaret E., the wife of Rev. Charles Blanchard, of Des Moines; Sarah, who is also deceased; George C., of Arkansas; Henry E., who is living in Hutchinson, Kansas; Millicent, now Mrs. Edwin Hicklin; and Laura, the wife of W. V. Runyon, of Letts, Iowa. Eight children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hicklin, namely: Edwin, Millicent, Mary, Jean, Catherine, Albert Otis, Laura Alice and Millard Fillmore.

Mr. Hicklin ever since arriving at his majority has voted in support of the candidates and principles of the republican party. He is a valued member of the Knights of Pythias. A man of strong determination of character and unusual perseverance and energy he has succeeded where others have failed. He can claim a host of warm personal friends in Wapello and is recognized as one of the leading and valued citizens of Louisa county.

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#### FRED MEYERHOLZ.

The birthplace of Fred Meyerholz was the farm upon which he is now residing in Jefferson township, and his natal day the 11th of October, 1867. He is the son of the late Henry and Elizabeth (Burchold) Meyerholz, both natives of Germany. The father, who was born in Oldenburg in 1829, embarked on a German vessel as cabin boy at the age of fifteen years, under Captain Kern. They sailed to Greenland and other northern countries, six months and twenty-three days elapsing before they returned to the home port. Later he joined the crew of an English merchantman which plied between the English ports and those of Germany, France and the United States, continuing to follow the sea for four years. His last voyage was made on the ship Edmond on which he came to the United States by way of Cuba, landing at New Orleans in 1849. There he boarded a river boat and went to Cincinnati, thence to the city of Madison, Indiana, where he apprenticed himself to the trades of carriage and wagon making. At the expiration of a year and a half the factory in which he was engaged removed to Burlington, Iowa, and he went with the company, continuing in their service for another two years. He subsequently withdrew from their employment and went to the territory of Nebraska, where he lived among the Indians for two years. At the end of that period he returned to Iowa and, locating in Wapello, Louisa county, secured employment at his trade with a Mr. Allison. He continued with him for eighteen months and then returned to Madison, accepting a position as a mechanic in the car shops there. It was there he met and subsequently was married in September, 1853, to Miss Eliza Burchold, a native of Hanover, Germany. Shortly after their marriage Mr. Meyerholz returned to Burlington, Iowa, with his bride, and two years later



HENRY MEYERHOLZ



settled in Louisa county, where he rented land, which he cultivated until 1863. He then purchased forty acres, which formed the nucleus of his homestead farm in Jefferson township. He was successful in his agricultural pursuits and was able to add to his realty holdings at different times until he had acquired, at the time of his demise, seven hundred and ninety-six acres of land. His death occurred on the 24th of July, 1906, and his wife passed away February 13, 1878. Unto them had been born eight children, the order of their birth being as follows: William, who is a farmer in Jefferson township; Emma, the wife of J. W. Lindley, of Muscatine county; Mary, who is living on the old homestead; Elizabeth, who has been teaching for twenty years, owns seventy-six and a half in Wapello township; Fred, our subject; Minnie, the wife of Charles Shipman, of Chicago; and Charles, who is professor of history in the Woman's College at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Reared on the old homestead Fred Meyerholz obtained his early education in the district schools, following which he pursued a high-school course. After the completion of his education he assisted with the cultivation of the farm until he was twenty-one when he rented the property which he later purchased. He now owns three hundred and twenty-three and a half acres of land on sections 1 and 7, Jefferson township. It is one of the finely improved, highly cultivated and attractive farming properties of the district, as well as one of the most valuable. Mr. Meyerholz is a man of progressive ideas, ever ready to adopt such modern scientific theories as he finds available in the cultivation of his fields or the raising of stock. He has been most successful in his farming as well as his stock-raising, of which he makes a specialty, and is recognized as one of the substantial agriculturists of the county.

Mr. Meyerholz has never married nor have his sisters, Miss Elizabeth and Miss Mary Meyerholz, so they all live together on the old home farm. Miss Elizabeth, a teacher, also residing on the old homestead; Frank, who is living acres of land on section 2, Jefferson township, and Miss Mary owns fifty-six and a half on section 1 of the same township.

Fraternally Mr. Meyerholz is a member of the Odd Fellows, being affiliated with Wapello Lodge, No. 19, in which he has filled all of the chairs. His political support he gives to the candidates of the republican party and has served in the capacity of school director. Being both resourceful and capable, by the application of modern business methods in the direction of his affairs. Mr. Meyerholz is meeting with increasing success from year to year.

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### BALIS E. THOMPSON.

Balis E. Thompson, who has been superintendent of the county poor house and farm for the past year, is a native of Louisa county, his natal day being the 18th of August, 1862. His parents, Henry and Sinah (Hurley) Thompson, were natives of Ohio and Delaware respectively. They were married in

Louisa county and began their domestic life on a farm in Grand View township, in the cultivation of which Mr. Thompson engaged until his demise on the 4th of March, 1869. His widow continued to reside there until 1878, at which time she removed to Wapello and kept the Iowa House for one year and then moved to Morning Sun, where she resided with her daughter until 1900, when she went to Wapello to live with her son, William A. She still survives, although she has long passed the Psalmist's allotment of years, her age being eighty-three. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were born thirteen children, six of whom survive: William A., who is the eldest of those living, a resident of Wapello; Minerva, who married James Billings, a button manufacturer of Muscatine, Iowa; Laura E., the wife of William H. Melrose, of Colfax, Washington; Balis E., our subject; Frances, who is unmarried and lives in Chicago; and Henry W., a resident of Van Buren county, Iowa. Those deceased are: Martha A.; Maria B.; Mary A., the wife of J. F. Cornelius, also deceased; John E.; Harry; and the twelfth and Altha, the twin sister of Frances, who died in infancy. Mrs. Cornelius left four children: James, who is living in Chicago; Roy E., deceased; Lulu, the wife of Lorinza R. McKinney, of Morning Sun; and Howard, of Louisa county.

Balis E. Thompson remained at home until he had attained the age of fifteen years, acquiring his education in the common schools. For ten years after leaving the parental roof he worked as a farm hand, during which time he saved sufficient money to enable him to a farm as a renter. He had been cultivating leased land for twenty-one years when he was appointed in 1910 to take care of the county poor house and farm, which position he still retains.

On the 5th of July, 1888, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Frances L. Presbury, of Wapello township, a daughter of John C. and Victoria (Mason) Presbury, who were natives of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Presbury were married in Louisa county, following which they settled upon a farm, in the cultivation of which Mr. Presbury was engaged until he passed away in May, 1900. He had survived his wife for three years, her demise occurring in April, 1897. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted as a private in Company F, Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served for seven months, being discharged on account of disability. Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Presbury: Virginia G. and Charles, who died in infancy; Frances L., now Mrs. Thompson; William A., a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Emma, the widow of Harry Kitner, of Kansas City; Susan, who married Joseph Halcroft, of Wapello; Cora, the wife of Charles Martin, of Kansas City; Maud the wife of Burton Redfern, of Bronson, Kansas; and Katie, who married Joseph Ankers, of Kansas City. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have five children: Lulu E., born on the 14th of April, 1889, who attended Grinnell College for one year, and is now the wife of Homer Mannefee, of Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa; Mary McKinley, born on the 27th of August, 1894, who has a commercial school education; Rodney K., who was born on the 5th of May, 1897; John M. F., who was born on the 4th of December, 1900; and Jean Audrey, born on the 16th of December, 1904.

The religious faith of the family is manifested through their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Thompson is a member of Columbus Junction Lodge, No. 305, I. O. O. F. Ever since granted the full rights of citizenship he has given his political support to the men and measures of the republican party. Although he has never been an office seeker he has served as township trustee and he was also a member of the school board for eight years. During the year he has been in his present position Mr. Thompson has given every indication of being capable of discharging the duties of the place.

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### J. H. EDWARDS.

Among the citizens of Louisa county, now deceased, whose names are held in loving remembrance was J. H. Edwards, who died October 19, 1888. He spent nearly his entire life in this county and by his industry, enterprise and good judgment accumulated a competency, becoming the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres, which he bequeathed to his family.

He was born in Blount county, Tennessee, May 17, 1842, a son of Madison and Esther (Johnston) Edwards, both of whom were natives of Blount county, Tennessee. The family came to Louisa county, Iowa, in the '40s and located on government land. Both the parents are deceased, the father having died many years ago, and the mother's death occurring June 10, 1911, at the age of eighty-seven years.

The only son of his parents, J. H. Edwards grew to manhood at his mother's home, and he possessed such advantages of education and training as were available in the country districts in Iowa in the years preceeding the Civil war. After arriving at maturity he began farming on his own account, applying himself with a diligence that soon yielded substantial returns. He became the owner of a productive place in Union township, the neat appearance of the farm indicating that he gave to it his close attention. He was a general farmer and also engaged in stock-raising, and as he was thoroughly acquainted with the most approved methods he marketed his stock to good advantage.

On September 4, 1866, Mr. Edwards was united in marriage in this county to Ella T. Carson, a native of this county and a daughter of Mark and Mary (Colton) Carson, the former of whom was born in Tennessee and the latter in Pennsylvania. They came to Iowa in the pioneer days and settled in Louisa county upon government land, which became the family homestead. Ella T. was their only child. Her father went to California during the gold excitement of 1849 and it is supposed that he died there. His widow and daughter then lived with relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were the parents of ten children, namely: Margaret H., now deceased; Harry L., who makes his home in this county; Mary M., a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah; Bessie, who married Charles Holada, of Columbus Junction; Roy, of South Dakota; Grace,



the wife of Harry L. Foster, of Johnson county, Iowa; Maud, who married M. McGuire, of Louisa county; Rose, at home; and Nellie and Mark, both of whom are deceased.

Mr. Edwards voted in support of the democratic party and was from the time of casting his first ballot an earnest supporter of its candidates and principles. Fraternally he was identified with the Masonic order whose teachings of brotherhood he greatly admired. Successful in his calling, he wielded an influence for good wherever he was known, always doing what he could to advance the permanent interests of the community. Mrs. Edwards still owns two hundred acres of the old homestead, and also is the owner of a fine residence in Columbus Junction, where she makes her home. She has a large circle of friends throughout this section and is a consistent member of the German Reformed church, with which she has been connected for many years.

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### ELLIOTT FRAZIER.

An old resident of Louisa county and veteran of the Civil war is Elliott Frazier, who for over twenty years has been identified with the commercial interests of Morning Sun. His birth occurred in Darke county, Ohio, on the 28th of February, 1838. He is a son of Alvis and Martha (Crommel) Frazier, the father a native of North Carolina and the mother of Pennsylvania. They removed to Louisa county in 1856, locating upon a farm, where the mother passed away in 1876. The father survived until 1892, and was residing in Tama county, Iowa, at the time of his demise. There were six children born of this union, but only two are surviving: Elliott, our subject; and Mary, the wife of A. Farmer, of South Dakota.

Elliott Frazier, who was eighteen years of age when his parents removed to Iowa, was educated in the common schools of his native state. He remained at home until he was of age, assisting in the work of the farm. On the 17th of August, 1861, he responded to his country's call and went to the front in defense of the Union, serving in the army for three years. He participated in many of the notable battles of the war, among them being: Pea Ridge, Chickasaw, Bayou, Lookout Mountain and Lookout Ridge, while he also took part in the siege of Jackson and Vicksburg. He sustained but one wound during the period of his service and that was at the battle of Vicksburg, where he was slightly hurt in the left side. He was mustered out in August, 1864, and returning to Louisa county he engaged in farming until 1888, at which time he withdrew from agricultural pursuits and coming to Morning Sun established a flour, feed and produce store, which he is still conducting.

Mr. Frazier was married on the 12th of May, 1870, to Miss Nancy J. Patton, who was born in Indiana in 1840, a daughter of Huston and Esther Patton, both of whom are now deceased. Four children have been born of this union, the order of their birth being as follows: Jessie, who is a teacher, living at

home; Teresa, the wife of J. W. Whitham, of Morning Sun; Charles, who is a resident of Fulton county, Illinois; and Frank, who is living in Morning Sun.

Mr. and Mrs. Frazier both affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, being a member of Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M. His right of franchise he exercises in support of the candidates of the democratic party. He served for fifteen years as a member of the school board, and for several terms he was a member of the village council. Mr. Frazier has always taken a prominent part in all G. A. R. activities and was one of the locating committee from the state of Iowa sent to Vicksburg to select a position for the soldiers' monument erected there. Although he has attained the age when the majority of men think of retiring from active duties Mr. Frazier is to be found at his place of business every day, and fully competent to adequately discharge all responsibilities.

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### WILLIAM C. SMITH.

An excellent farm of five hundred acres located on section 4, Jefferson township, does much credit to the agricultural skill of William C. Smith, who is one of the successful and competent farmers of Louisa county. He was born in Henry county, Illinois, on the 10th of October, 1864, and is the youngest son of David H. and Esther (Sornberger) Smith.

The father was born in Morgan county, Ohio, January 7, 1834, and was the fourth in order of birth and eldest son in a family of six children, whose parents were Nathan and Susannah (Howard) Smith. They were natives of Pennsylvania and from that state removed to Ohio, where their deaths occurred. In the county of his nativity David H. Smith continued to make his home until attaining his majority, in the meantime attending the common schools and Ohio University at Athens. He then removed to Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where he spent seven years, being engaged in farming, teaching and mercantile business. In 1861 he took up his residence in Henry county, Illinois, where he operated rented land for five years, and then purchased an eighty acre farm on section 12, Osco township, upon which he erected a fine set of buildings. As time passed he added to his property until he became the owner of several hundred acres.

In Lafayette county, Wisconsin, October 25, 1855, David H. Smith married Miss Esther Sornberger, who was born in Delaware county, New York, March 31, 1834 and was a daughter of George and Hannah (Olmsted) Sornberger, also natives of the Empire state. By this union six children were born: Howard H., a resident of Houston, Texas; Charles M., of Boone county, Iowa; William C., of this review; Myra E., the wife of O. A. Hommersand, of Houston, Texas; Ella, who died at the age of two years; and Kittie, who died at the age of five months. In 1904 the parents came to this county to make

their home with their son William and here the father died December 24, 1909, but the mother's death occurred at the home of her son Charles in Albany, Missouri, September 16, 1905. They were both earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father served as road commissioner for five years.

William C. Smith acquired his education in the common and high schools, remaining a member of his father's household until he had attained his majority, at which time he left home to begin life for himself. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of feeding stock for the market, and he is meeting with gratifying success from his various ventures. Mr. Smith is a man of considerable versatility and for more than fifteen years he has been recognized as one of the best auctioneers of his community, devoting a great deal of his attention to that business.

Mr. Smith established a home of his own by his marriage December 10, 1885, to Miss Olive L. Parsons, a native of Jefferson township and a daughter of Joseph J. and Mary E. (Coleman) Parsons, natives of West Virginia, who came to Iowa at an early day, locating in Jefferson township, Louisa county, where Mrs. Smith was born. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children: Earl P., who was born on the 25th of November, 1887, and is a farmer of this county; D. Howard, who was born on the 21st of December, 1893; and Nellie, whose birth occurred on the 28th of July, 1897.

The religious faith of the family is manifested through their affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally Mr. Smith is identified with the Masonic order, being a member of Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M., while to the men and measures of the republican party he accords his political support. He takes an active interest in the affairs of his township and for ten years served as trustee and he has also been a member of the school board. His life has ever been one of continuous activity and as a result he has attained a position which ranks him among the substantial farmers of his community as well as the most highly respected citizens.

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### J. W. JAMISON.

One of the highly successful agriculturists and stockmen of Louisa county is J. W. Jamison, who seventeen years ago retired to Newport, where he has since continuously resided. The eldest son of George and Hulda (Herrick) Jamison, his birth occurred in Louisa county on the 29th of August, 1841. The father was a native of Ohio and the mother of New York. They came to Iowa soon after their marriage, locating on a farm in Louisa county in 1840. Eight children were born of their union, of whom four are living as follows: J. W.; Jacob H.; Merritt L., who is a resident of Louisa county; and O. Brigham, also of this county. The third in order of birth and the last died in infancy,





MR. AND MRS. JOHN VAUGHN



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE JAMISON



MR. AND MRS. J. W. JAMISON





as did also the fourth and fifth who were twins, and both of the parents are now deceased.

J. W. Jamison early completed his education, which was acquired in the district schools of his township, and then assisted in the cultivation of the farm. When he was twenty-two his father presented him with three hundred acres of land, upon which he immediately settled. He continued to reside on that place, upon which he made all of the improvements, until 1894, making a specialty of feeding and shipping cattle and hogs, from which he realized most lucrative returns. In 1894 he purchased fourteen acres of land in Newport and thereon he erected a very pleasant two-story brick residence and has ever since made this his home.

Upon the 28th of September, 1862, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jamison and Miss Rachel Vaughn, a daughter of John and Deborah (Mason) Vaughn. They were the parents of thirteen children, the order of their birth being as follows: a daughter, who died in infancy; Jeremiah, also deceased; Mary, the wife of C. McCray, of Louisa county; Margaret and Hannah, both deceased; Rachel, now Mrs. Jamison; and Isaac and William J., both deceased; Jesse, now living in Sioux City, Iowa; Aurelia, the wife of George Mason of Woodbury; and Virginia, Minerva and Ziba, who are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Jamison have five children: Tuttle G., of Oakville, Iowa; Isaac, who is living in Morning Sun; Hulda J., who became the wife of D. Kremer of Wapello; Minerva, who married T. Dotson, of Louisa county; and Mary, the wife of Wilson Robb, of Louisa county.

The family always attended the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members, and in politics Mr. Jamison is a democrat. He has usually been too deeply absorbed in his personal affairs, however, to ever prominently participate in political activities although he at one time served as assessor. He possesses the ability to undertake and carry to a successful issue extensive operations and to this fact must be largely attributed the achievements of his business career.

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#### C. A. BROWN.

C. A. Brown, who has been engaged in the real-estate business at Wapello for two years past and on account of his large experience and correct judgment of values has met with a goodly measure of success, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, May 16, 1858, a son of Abraham and Susan W. (Storks) Brown, the former of whom was born in Harrison county, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Dover, Delaware. The father came west with his family in the fall of 1861 and stopped in Louisa county, Iowa, locating in the spring of 1862 on land which became the family homestead. He acquired a comfortable competency and retired at the age of fifty-five years. He is still living on the old homestead but the mother died January 3, 1910, at the age of seventy-nine years. There

were six children in their family; Olivia, who is the wife of William Robertson, of this county; C. A., of this review; David N., of Martinsburg, Audrain county, Missouri; John, deceased; Mary E., who married J. R. Watson, of Pacific, Missouri; and Carrie, also deceased.

C. A. Brown was educated in the common schools and as a boy became familiar with all classes of farm work. After attaining his majority he continued working for his father for a year and then began farming on his own account. In 1882 he bought forty-three acres adjoining the old home place and applied himself so industriously that he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres. At the age of twenty-six he embarked in the grain business at Oakville, Iowa, with which he was identified for about five years. On December 10, 1885, he was appointed first agent of the Iowa Central Railway at Oakville and continued in railway service for five years, during which time he learned telegraphy and had full charge of the railway station. A large grain business was built up and as he did not care to continue at the salary he was receiving he resigned, turning over the station to T. M. Storks, whom he had properly instructed for the position. Mr. Brown then continued in the grain business on his own account, also engaging in the shipping of live stock. In a short time, however, he perceived a larger opening at Mediapolis and moved to that point and engaged in shipping grain on a large scale. He leased a plant for one year, which was offered for sale under a receivership, but he did not then care to purchase the property. For two years he engaged in farming and then returned to Mediapolis and bought the plant, which he conducted successfully for two years. He also assisted in organizing the Oakville Savings Bank and served as president of that institution. In 1900 he came to Wapello and engaged in the grain business with G. W. Hayden, the partnership continuing in existence for four years. He then purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business on his own account for two years. In July, 1907, he sold out to E. B. Cook and went to the Pan-Handle of Texas, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he sold the following December. Returning to Oakville, Iowa, he purchased the elevator at that point, the business having grown until it amounted to three hundred cars per annum. After twenty months he disposed of his business and settled at Wapello. On the 1st of January, 1909, he embarked in the real-estate business and a month later admitted to partnership Robert E. Eland. They have secured a large patronage and are now conducting one of the most prosperous real-estate agencies in this part of Iowa. Mr. Brown owns two hundred acres of land in Louisa county, three hundred and twenty acres in Alberta, Canada, and stock in both banks at Oakville and Mediapolis. He has purchased seven acres of land in the city of Wapello and it is his intention to soon erect thereon a fine modern residence.

On the 20th of March, 1884, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Emma Ernsting. Her parents, Louis and Dorothy (Reuter) Ernsting, were both born near Hamburg, Germany, and were sweethearts in their native land. They came to America on the same vessel in 1861 and were married soon after-

ward in Burlington, Iowa. The father died December 3, 1905, but the mother is still living and now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Brown. Mr. Ernsting was a farmer by occupation and a republican in politics. In the family were four children, of whom Mrs. Brown is the oldest. Henry is deceased. Lena is the wife of Thomas Myers, residing near Hurdland, Missouri. Minnie is the wife of H. B. Carter, of Oakville. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, namely, Ora C., Pearl E. and Bessie Leona, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Brown has been identified with many enterprises in the course of his career and has always shown keen interest in his business and a clear recognition of opportunities. He has been honorable and upright in his dealings and as an active and useful citizen receives the merited respect of his neighbors and friends. Politically he is an adherent of the republican party and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a man of benevolent and humane disposition and is a strong believer in the Bible, being also a sincere member of the Methodist church.

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### JAMES SLIGH.

James Sligh, who for many years was engaged in general farming and stock-raising in this county, but is now living retired in Morning Sun, was born in Northumberland county, England, on the 9th of August, 1834. The parents, who were natives of Scotland migrated to America in 1850, locating in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where they passed away. They were the parents of six children: Archibald, who is deceased; Helen, the wife of John Porter, of Westmoreland county; James, our subject; two, who died in England, and one whose death occurred in Scotland.

After the acquirement of a common school education, James Sligh worked as a farm hand until he was twenty-five years of age, then rented eighty acres, in the cultivation of which he engaged for five years. At the expiration of that period he rented one hundred and seventy acres, which he cultivated for three years, then removed to Louisa county, Iowa. Upon his arrival in this county in 1868 he rented sixty-three acres, but subsequently purchased eighty acres in Marshall township. In 1883 he increased his holdings by the addition of another eighty acre tract, which he still owns. He has made all of the improvements upon his homestead, which is well cultivated and recognized as one of the valuable properties of the township. There Mr. Sligh engaged in general farming and stock-raising until 1892, at which time he retired to Morning Sun where he owns a pleasant residence.

Mr. Sligh married Miss Eliza Reed on the 17th of March, 1864. Mrs. Sligh, who is deceased, was the eldest child of Robert and Martha (Barr) Reed, natives of Pennsylvania, and the parents of seven children as follows: Eliza and William, twins, both deceased; James, also deceased; Margaret, who

is living in Pennsylvania; and Mary Jane, John and Samuel, all deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sligh were born three children: Martha Alice, who is at home; Harry Reed, who is living in Wapello; and Helen Margaret, who died in infancy.

Mr. Sligh is affiliated with the Presbyterian church with which his wife was also identified. His right of franchise he exercises in support of the candidates of the democratic party, but has never held any office save that of school director. The measure of success awarded the endeavors of Mr. Sligh has been the result of his own well directed activities, sustained by good judgment and sound integrity.

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### JOHN C. THOMSON.

John C. Thomson, well known as an enterprising general merchant of Oakville, is the proprietor of the most extensive establishment of its kind in the town. His birth occurred in Newport, Kentucky, on the 16th of November, 1857, his parents being James Y. and Anna (Seed) Thomson, who were natives of Scotland and Ireland respectively. The father, who was a civil engineer by profession, emigrated to the United States and took up his abode in Cincinnati, Ohio. Subsequently he embarked in business as a wholesale dry goods merchant, conducting the enterprise successfully until he disposed of his interests. Both he and his wife have passed away. Unto them were born five children, as follows: Jennie, the wife of D. D. Marshall, of Burlington, Iowa; Anna, who is deceased; John C., of this review; William, who died in infancy; and Cora E., who is a resident of Burlington, Iowa.

When a youth of fifteen John C. Thomson began earning his own livelihood, being employed as a clerk at Burlington for two years. Subsequently he spent four years on a farm and then went to Nevada, while later he made his way to California and to Oregon. Returning to Iowa, he took up his abode on a tract of land south of Burlington and there followed farming for two years. On the expiration of the period he came to Louisa county, here being engaged in general agricultural pursuits for about seven years. He then embarked in business as a general merchant of Oakville, where he has remained continuously since, now conducting the largest enterprise of the kind in the town. The building in which the business is carried on is owned by Mr. Thomson and H. B. Carter. It was erected in 1901 and is a brick structure of two stories, while its dimensions are seventy by sixty feet. His business methods will bear the closest scrutiny and investigation and his probity has gained for him the respect of all.

On the 25th of January, 1886, Mr. Thomson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Downey, a daughter of Michael and Anna Downey, who formerly owned a farm on the present site of Oakville. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thomson were born four children, namely: Marshall D., a young man of twenty-three years,

who is associated in business with his father; Mabel, who died in infancy; Charles T., a student in a business college at Burlington, Iowa; and Kenneth Bryan, at home.

Mr. Thomson is a democrat in politics and has held a number of township offices, ably discharging the duties devolving upon him. Fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen. Wherever known he is respected for his unflinching allegiance to the principles of honorable manhood as manifest in business and social relations and in public-spirited citizenship.

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### MISS JENNIE ROBERTSON.

The western states are far ahead of the older and more conservative commonwealths of the east in recognition of the rights of women and also in presenting opportunities for women as office holders. Experience has demonstrated the ability of women in the discharge of many responsible public offices and the success of Miss Jennie Robertson as county recorder of Louisa county is additional evidence of the truth of this statement.

She is a native of Louisa county, born May 10, 1864, a daughter of John and Keziah R. (Duncan) Robertson. Her maternal grandfather, A. J. Duncan, came to Louisa county in 1848 and purchased land for ten dollars per acre. Her father was born in Ohio and was brought to Louisa county, Iowa, with his parents in his early boyhood. He devoted his attention to agriculture and stock-raising and acquired a farm of two hundred acres in this county, upon which he continued during the remainder of his life. He died May 8, 1886, at the age of forty-eight years. Her mother is still living and makes her home at Columbus Junction, being now seventy years old. There were ten children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, namely: Clara, who is deceased; Jennie, of this review; James M., who lives in Columbus City township; William A., deceased; Samuel G., of Morning Sun, Iowa; Margaret M., deceased; Thomas, of Columbus City; Harry A., of Columbus Junction; Nellie, deceased; and John J., also of Columbus Junction.

Miss Jennie Robertson possessed good advantages of education in the country schools and continued her studies in normal schools under thoroughly qualified instructors. She readily acquired knowledge and, as she possesses the ability of imparting the same, she naturally followed school teaching for eight years with marked success. She taught for seven years in country schools and for one year in the city schools of Columbus Junction. She gave up teaching, however, and for several years filled a clerical position in mercantile business, later becoming connected as writer with the Columbus Safe Guard, a well known newspaper of Columbus Junction, a position which she occupied for six years.

In November, 1908, Miss Robertson was elected county recorder of Louisa county for a term of two years, beginning in January, 1909. Having discharged the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the people of the county, she was

reelected for a second term in November, 1910, and continues at a post for which by natural ability, education and training she seems eminently adapted. She has made an intelligent study of politics and as a result is an earnest advocate of the principles of the republican party. She is a protectionist and is also in favor of a strong central government with the nerve and stamina to take vigorous hold in case of emergency, preserving order and respect for law throughout the entire country.

Religiously Miss Robertson adheres to the United Presbyterian church. She is public-spirited, progressive and fully alive to the resources that are lying dormant in her native county and state, and she strongly advocates keeping well to the front in all lines of modern development. She believes in straightforward business administration of public affairs and her office is conducted in accordance with the most approved business methods, thus meeting the wants of the people and still further popularizing and promoting the influence of woman in political life.

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#### RODNEY G. HAWKINS.

Rodney G. Hawkins, the well known and enterprising publisher of the Wapello Republican, the leading and official newspaper of Louisa county, has been identified with journalistic interests in this county for more than a quarter of a century. His birth occurred at Boston Corners, St. Lawrence county, New York, on the 20th of July, 1863, his parents being Jasper H. and Elizabeth (Kingsley) Hawkins, both of whom are yet living. The father, an attorney at law, remained in active practice in the legal profession until 1900. The family was represented in this country as early as 1700. Uriah Kingsley, the great-grandfather of our subject, participated in the Revolutionary war and drew a pension for many years. His demise occurred in November, 1849.

Rodney G. Hawkins obtained his early education in the public schools at Algona, Iowa, and subsequently attended Algona College for two years. After putting aside his text-books he entered the office of the Algona (Iowa) Upper Des Moines in 1882 in order to learn the printing business. In 1884 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Des Moines, being employed in various newspaper and job printing offices of that city until September, 1885, when he came to Louisa county and began work as foreman of the Morning Sun Herald. He continued in that capacity until January 1, 1891, and then purchased a half interest in the Herald from Frank B. Tracy, leasing the other half from A. M. M. Dornon. Under that arrangement he published the paper until January 1, 1893, when he bought Mr. Dornon's interest, continuing as editor until September 3, 1896. On that date he purchased the Wapello Republican from C. M. Wright and turned the Herald over to his brother, E. B. Hawkins, who remained its publisher until its sale to J. K. Latta on the 1st of January, 1898. R. G. Hawkins has been the publisher of the Republican for the



RODNEY G. HAWKINS





past fifteen years and in August, 1910, installed a model 5 Mergenthaler linotype, the first typesetting machine brought to Louisa county. The Republican, established in 1859, is the oldest paper in the county and has stood the test of years, having long been the leading journal of Wapello and Louisa county. It has a larger circulation than any other newspaper in the county and therefore constitutes the best advertising medium. In the office a specialty is made of job printing, including linotype composition, book and catalogue work.

On the 15th of October, 1891, at Morning Sun, Iowa, Mr. Hawkins was united in marriage to Miss Avanella G. Kinkead, a daughter of J. M. and Rebecca (Orr) Kinkead. They have two children, J. Blaine and June G.

In politics Mr. Hawkins has been a staunch republican since casting his first ballot for James G. Blaine. He has always been an active worker in the local ranks of the party and has held the office of township committeeman. On the 26th of July, 1897, he was appointed postmaster of Wapello, ably serving in that capacity until May 8, 1910. From the 1st of January, 1893, until September, 1896, he was a member and secretary of the Soldiers Relief Commission of Louisa county. He became a charter member of Black Hawk Lodge, No. 281, K. P., in August, 1891, and the following year organized Virginia Grove Lodge, No. 302, K. P., at Morning Sun, Iowa, being elected its first past chancellor and commissioned district deputy grand chancellor by the grand chancellor. In 1904 he again joined Black Hawk Lodge by card. In 1893 he became identified with the Masonic fraternity, joining Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M. In 1891 he joined the Presbyterian church at Morning Sun and five years later transferred his membership to the church of the same denomination at Wapello. At different times he has filled the offices of trustee, treasurer and chairman of the congregation. Possessing a most genial manner, cordial spirit and kindly disposition, his unfailing courtesy and ready adaptability have made him popular wherever he is known.

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### JOHN A. SELLERS.

Among those who by indefatigable energy and constant application have aided in the development of the natural resources of Louisa county, is John A. Sellers, whose birth occurred in Clark county, Ohio, on the 1st of July, 1836. He is the eldest son of Warner and Maria (Bates) Sellers, also natives of the Buckeye state, from which they migrated to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1844, and here they preempted one hundred and sixty acres of government land. Their homestead was located in what is now known as Marshall township, where both parents passed their last days. They had eight children, who in order of birth were as follows: John A., our subject; Nancy, who became the wife of John Marshall; James, who died while serving in the Civil war; Rebecca, who became the wife of Joseph Allen, of Louisa county; Reese Sellers, also a resident of this county; Irene, who married Henry Freeman, of Colum-

bus Junction; Harriet, the wife of Eli Webster, of Morning Sun; and Albert, deceased.

John A. Sellers, who was very young when the family came to Iowa, began his education in the district schools of his native state, the course there pursued being later supplemented by study in the schools of Louisa county. In his early youth he began assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm, thus qualifying himself for the pursuance of agriculture as his life vocation.

Mr. Sellers celebrated Christmas, 1857, by his marriage to Miss Hannah Lunbeck, a daughter of Isaac and Eliza (Marshall) Lunbeck, and they became the parents of the following children: Homer, Robert, Andrew and Annie, all of whom are deceased; Eva, the wife of William Root, of Louisa county; and Lillian, the wife of Lew Green, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Mrs. Sellers died in May, 1896.

A republican, Mr. Sellers gives his political support to the candidates of that party, considering that its principles are best adapted to subserve the interests of the agriculturist. He affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church, among whose members he numbers many of his best friends.

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#### REESE SELLERS.

Although he is a native of Clark county, Ohio, Reese Sellers has spent the greater part of his life in Louisa county, where for many years he was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. His natal day was February 23, 1844. His parents, Warner and Maria (Bates) Sellers, were for many years residents of this county.

At the age of six weeks Mr. Sellers was brought by his parents from the Buckeye state to Iowa, where he was educated and reared. After leaving school he devoted his attention to the work of the farm, having decided upon agriculture as his life vocation. He now owns a fine farm of eighty acres and his home place of ten acres in Cairo.

Mr. Sellers was married on the 5th of November, 1868, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Weaver, a daughter of Erastus and Mary (Marshall) Weaver. In the maternal line she is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Louisa county. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Weaver, was a native of Ohio, having been born in the vicinity of Xenia on the 30th of April, 1820, and there she spent the first nine years of her life. In 1838 her father, John Marshall, migrated to the new section in the west which had but recently been thrown open to settlement through the Black Hawk purchase. Upon his arrival in this county he filed upon a large tract of land in the township which now bears his name, and here his daughter grew to womanhood. On the 29th of December, 1847, she was united in marriage to Erastus Weaver and they became the parents of nine children, as follows: Mary E., now Mrs. Sellers; Laura and Annie, both of whom died in in-

fancy; Emily Frances, the wife of W. H. Darrow, of Columbus Junction; Lucy, the wife of Sam Briggs, of this county; Clara, who resides at Morning Sun and is the wife of Dr. Allen; H. O., of Wapello; Henrietta, the wife of August Salmon, of Columbus Junction; and Alice, who died in infancy. Mrs. Weaver was one of those brave-hearted, fearless and noble women, who uncomplainingly bore all the hardships and struggles incident to pioneer life, even to the caring for her family while the husband and father went to the front to fight for his country. He enlisted in Company C, Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as a private. Mrs. Weaver always surrounded her children with love which ever engenders peace and harmony in the relations of life, at all times instilling into them the high ideals and noble principles of life, which have gone far toward making them the self-reliant and strong men and women they are today. She was a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal church which was established at Prairie Chapel in Marshall township in 1859. Her life was always guided and directed from the light within and she was ever constant and fearless in her devotion to what she believed to be right. She passed away on the 16th of November, 1898, and was laid to rest beside her parents in Fulton cemetery. For more than five years preceding her demise she had been an invalid but always bore with fortitude the pain and constantly increasing weakness, which at the last made death greatly to be desired.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sellers were born three sons and two daughters, as follows: Aldivne, who is deceased; Frank, a resident of Louisa county; William D., deceased; Leona, the wife of Arthur Mewherter, of Louisa county; and George, who is at home.

The church connection of the family is with the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and politically Mr. Sellers is a republican. He has never taken an active part in public affairs, however, always having found that the exacting demands of his own interests required his undivided attention.

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#### AUGUST GILBERT.

August Gilbert, who is now deceased, was for many years well known in Columbus Junction and as a hotelkeeper gained a reputation which enabled him to accumulate a competency. He was a native of Germany, where he was born October 22, 1821. He attended the public schools and continued under the parental roof until after reaching his majority. Like thousands of ambitious young men he desired the most favorable conditions for advancement that the world afforded and he decided to seek his fortune beyond the seas. Accordingly, he arrived in America early in the '50s and took up his residence in Wisconsin, where he became connected with railroad work and later engaged as railroad contractor. This was a time when railroads were being extensively built throughout the northern states. He continued in this country about

twenty years and through his industry and sound judgment prospered financially.

His mind, however, turned to his old home and once more he crossed the ocean to visit the scenes of his youth, and when he returned to America it was with a bride. After spending two years in Minnesota he came to Iowa and followed hotelkeeping for two years at Muscatine. He then settled in Columbus Junction, where he was connected with the grocery and drug business. In 1875 he sold out and erected a building which became known as the old Gilbert House, where he conducted a hotel during the remainder of his life. He was a man of pleasing address and the Gilbert House gained a wide reputation as one of the favorite stopping places in this section. He was a generous provider for his guests and made many friends, who found in him one whom they could trust implicitly and who always aimed to be entirely fair and just in transactions with his fellowmen.

On May 2, 1866, Mr. Gilbert was married to Miss Anna Achardt, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Achardt. The parents were natives of Germany and spent their entire lives in that country. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert: August, Jr., who is now a resident of Chicago, Illinois; Charles, who lives in Ohio; Carrie, who is the wife of William G. Roberts, of Columbus Junction; and William, who makes his home at Des Moines, Iowa.

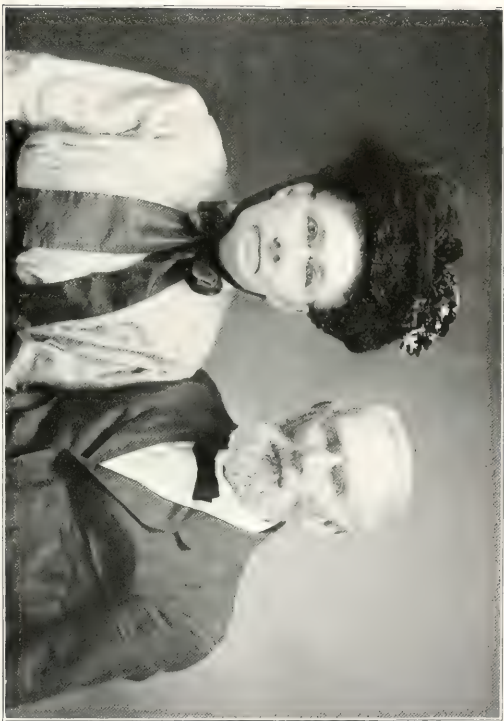
Mr. Gilbert died January 28, 1890, and the announcement of his death was received with general regret, as he was one of the most esteemed citizens of Columbus Junction. He was an energetic and progressive man, who possessed in a marked degree the sturdy characteristics of the Teutonic race. Early in life he had the courage to cast his lot in a strange land and here he found home and friends. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran church, as is also his widow. She continues in the hotel business and, as she is a woman of unusual energy and also possesses tact and sound judgment, she is meeting with well merited returns for her labors.

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#### JOHN M. MORGAN.

Although he has passed the venerable age of four score years John M. Morgan, now living retired at Columbus City, takes a lively interest in world affairs and continues a valued factor in the community. Long identified with agriculture and stock-raising in Louisa county, his name is known throughout a wide section and it is always spoken with the respect due to one who in all his transactions has aimed to be strictly honorable and just.

He was born in Wales, September 10, 1830, a son of John and Catharine (Evans) Morgan. The father emigrated to America with his family in 1844 and in 1845 arrived in Iowa, settling in what was then known as the Welsh neighborhood, west of Columbus City. For more than thirty-five years he engaged in farming, becoming the owner of a valuable property of two hundred and fifty acres. He died in 1882 and his wife is also deceased. In their



MR. AND MRS. JOHN M. MORGAN





family were four children: Elizabeth, who married John Reese, of Columbus City, and is now deceased; Ann, who became the wife of Edward Davis, of Columbus City, and is also deceased; John M.; and Evan, deceased.

John M. Morgan received his early education in his native country and at fourteen years of age crossed the ocean with his parents to seek his fortune in the new world. He soon adapted himself to conditions different from those he had known earlier in life and became a patriotic and progressive American citizen. He remained an inmate of the parental home after reaching his majority and assisted his father in the cultivation and management of the home place. After the death of the father he purchased the interests of his brothers and sisters, becoming sole owner of the farm. He carried on general farming and stock-raising with marked success and so continued until 1905, when he sold out and bought a comfortable residence in Columbus City, where he has since lived.

On the 27th of February, 1865, Mr. Morgan was married to Miss Ann Lewis, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Roderick) Lewis, both of whom were born in Wales. They came to this country in 1848 and took up their residence near Burlington in Des Moines county. After the close of the Civil war they removed to Livingston county, Missouri, where Mr. Lewis engaged in farming. He died at the age of seventy-four and his wife is also deceased. In their family were five children: Joseph, who is living in Missouri; William, who removed to the state of Nevada and is now deceased; David and Margaret, both of whom are deceased; and Ann, now Mrs. John M. Morgan. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Morgan: Lewis, of Missouri; Abbia, now a resident of South Dakota; John, who makes his home in Louisa county; and Thomas, deceased.

In religious faith Mr. Morgan adheres to the Congregational church, to which he is a liberal contributor. Politically he supports the platforms and candidates of the republican party but has never done so through any desire to secure public office, as his interest has centered in his family and his business. He enjoys the reputation among his acquaintances of being a man of excellent judgment, possessing all the attributes that belong to a good citizen. He and his wife have many friends and are fully worthy of the high respect in which they are held by young and old in Louisa county.

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### C. A. SPRAGUE.

Over twenty years ago C. A. Sprague became connected with the business interests of Columbus Junction and he sees no reason to regret the step he then took, as he has prospered highly and is one of the best known men in Louisa county. He can claim a long line of worthy ancestry in America and was born in Cherry Valley, Illinois, February 3, 1856, a son of A. G. and

Lucena R. (Farley) Sprague, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The parents were married in Illinois and shortly afterward located in Winnebago county, that state, where the father engaged in farming. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and was soon afterwards sent with his regiment to the south. He was a true soldier and was killed in the battle of Champion's Hill, May 16, 1864, while valiantly upholding the cause of the Union. Mrs. Sprague, who is now Mrs. Brooks, is living at Lawrence, Kansas. In their family were four children, namely: C. A., of this review, Ella D., who is the widow of J. E. Teeter, of Kansas; Lottie L., who makes her home at Lawrence; and James A., who is engaged with his brother in business.

The Sprague family traces its ancestry back to the early colonial settlers and is distinctively American through the succeeding generations. In early history the name has been variously spelled as Sprech, Sprake, Spragg, Spragge and Sprague. The first member of the family of whom an authentic record has been found was Edward Sprague, a resident of Upway, county of Dorset, England, and a fuller by trade. In an article by — Barr, entitled "The Old Northwest," the line of descent in the Sprague family is indicated successively by Edward, William, Joshua, Sr., and Joshua, Jr. Joshua, Jr., went to Marietta, Ohio in 1788 and settled at Waterford, Washington county where he died in 1816. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, attaining the rank of major. His son, Jonathan Sprague, was born January 9, 1767, at Sackville, Nova Scotia. The first wife of Johnathan Sprague was Sabra Seamans whose parents, Gilbert and Martha (Alger) Seamans, were married in Providence, Rhode Island, on the 25th of June, 1758. Gilbert Seamans emigrated with his family to Nova Scotia, and on the opening of the war for independence he returned to the colonies in revolt and espoused the patriot cause. In appreciation of his services his heirs received a grant of land in the Refugee tract in Ohio. It is thought that after the close of the Revolutionary war he lived in Nantucket, Massachusetts, for a time, but it is known that his last days were spent on the Muskingum river, above Marietta, Ohio, where he died prior to 1800. Among the children of Joshua and Sabra Sprague was Anthony Wayne Sprague, the grandfather of our subject, who married Lucinda, the daughter of Allen and Ruth (Bennett) Duval. Their son, A. G. Sprague, was the father of C. A. Sprague, of this review.

C. A. Sprague, who was born in Cherry Valley, Illinois, removed the same spring with his parents to Washington county, Iowa. In the meantime he acquired a good education in the common schools, and at the age of eighteen years began teaching school in Washington county. After four years he engaged in farming on his own account and about two years later purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Washington county, which he cultivated for four years. He then removed to De Soto, Kansas, and taught school for a year. In 1888 he came to Columbus Junction and purchased the flour, feed and fuel business of A. H. Parsons. Seven years later he admitted F. H. Johnson to partnership, but in 1897 J. A. Sprague, the brother of our subject, purchased Mr. Johnson's

interest and the firm has since been known as Sprague Brothers, their establishment being the largest of its kind in Louisa county.

In 1878 Mr. Sprague was married to Miss Alice C. Glasgow, a daughter of Robert B. and Matilda J. Glasgow, both of whom were born in Ohio. Three children came to bless this union: R. Wyatt, who is now living at Seattle, Washington; Mazie, the wife of Rev. A. L. Graham, of Burlington, Iowa; and C. Arthur, who is now superintendent of schools at Waitsburg, Washington. The mother of these children died January 31, 1899, and Mr. Sprague was married in October, 1899, to Miss Minnie Davidson, a daughter of Archibald and Sarah (Akin) Davidson, both natives of Pennsylvania. One child, who died in infancy, was born to this union.

Mr. Sprague gives his political allegiance to the republican party and while living in Washington county served as township clerk. He has also occupied a chair in the city council of Columbus Junction. In religious faith he adheres to the United Presbyterian church. He is a man of good business judgment and is the owner in connection with his brother, of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Kansas and also of several valuable business properties in Columbus Junction, being recognized as one of the most energetic and progressive citizens of the community.

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#### ANDERSON ORCHARD.

One of the pioneers settlers of Iowa who is now living retired in Morning Sun is Anderson Orchard, who for forty-three years was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Des Moines county. His birth occurred in Kentucky on the 15th of October, 1821, his parents being John and Anna (Park) Orchard, also natives of the Blue Grass state, who removed to Brown county, Illinois, in 1832, and there they passed away. In their family were seven children, of whom the son Anderson is the only one now living.

The greater portion of the education of Anderson Orchard was acquired in the little log school house in the vicinity of the old homestead in Brown county, Illinois. He laid aside his text-books in his early youth and assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm, remaining a member of the parental household until he was twenty-one. He subsequently rented his father's farm, in the cultivation of which he engaged for eleven years. In 1853 he removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, where he bought a homestead upon which he settled, continuing its operation for forty-three years. He engaged in general farming but always made a specialty of the raising and feeding of stock for the market which venture proved to be very lucrative. In 1896 Mr. Orchard retired and moved to Morning Sun, where he has ever since continuously resided. He still owns two hundred and ten acres of land in Des Moines county in addition to his fine residence in Morning Sun.

On the 9th of February, 1843, occurred the marriage of Mr. Orchard and Miss Caroline Emrick, who was born in Mead county, Kentucky, on the 12th of August, 1828. She is a daughter of John and Rebecca (Legg) Emrick, her father a native of Virginia and her mother of Kentucky. They removed to Brown county, Illinois, in 1830, where they resided until they came to Iowa to live with Mrs. Orchard, in whose home they passed away. Of the six children born unto them but two are now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Orchard were born fourteen children, the order of their birth being as follows: Columbia Jane, who is deceased; Josephine, who married William Shewey, of Red Oak, Iowa; John E., who is living in California; Robert R., also a resident of California; Lucinda, who married George Aldridge, of Wyoming; Joseph, of Des Moines county; Mary, the widow of Robert Oberman, also of Des Moines county; Augusta, the wife of Henry Elliott, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Ella, deceased; Franklin, who is living in Trenton, Missouri; Clara Bell, who married Charles Plunket, of California; Hugh A., who is a resident of Cedar Rapids; Eliza, who married John Musock, of Los Angeles; and Edith Mary, the wife of Grant Shutter, of Morning Sun. Mr. and Mrs. Orchard also have over thirty grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

His political support Mr. Orchard has given to the republican candidates ever since the organization of that party, prior to which time he voted the whig ticket. He has never taken a prominent part in political activities but has always been a public-spirited man and while residing in Iowa was a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Society, which was a vigilance association organized for the purpose of exterminating horse stealing, which at that time was a very common practice. Both Mr. and Mrs. Orchard are members of the Christian church, having been affiliated with this denomination for many years. Mr. Orchard, who has long outlived the Psalmist's allotted years, has been an interested observer of the onward march of civilization, having witnessed the stage coach give way to the express train, the candle to the electric light and the installation of both the telephone and telegraph, which have grown to be necessities of every day life. He and his wife are highly regarded in the community where they have long resided and are shown the respect and deference which should ever be youth's tribute to honorable old age.

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### LAUNY VAN HORN.

Perhaps no other resident of Louisa county has intimate knowledge of so many branches of business as has Launy Van Horn, whose activity along various lines has served to give him a broad and comprehensive knowledge of business methods. Born in Niagara county, New York, on the 18th of January, 1849, he is a son of Launy and Lucina (Powers) Van Horn, natives of the Empire state, the father's birth also occurring in Niagara county. The

parents were married in Lockport, New York, where the father engaged in farming throughout his entire career. He passed away at the age of seventy-eight years, the mother's death occurring when she was seventy-five years old. In their family were five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest. The others are as follows: Harmon, of Niagara county, New York; Ella, who married C. T. Herrington, deceased, of Niagara county; Adelbert, a farmer of Niagara county; and Carrie, the wife of Calvin Burnett, of that county.

Launy Van Horn acquired his education in the common schools of his native county and, although reared to farm work, turned his attention to other pursuits when he began working independently. He was but sixteen years of age when he started out on his own account, his initial step being in the capacity of brakeman on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad at Hannibal, Missouri. He was thus engaged for only a short time, however, after which he began working at the photographer's trade, with which he was connected for two years. At the end of that time he went upon the road as traveling salesman for the St. Louis Home Journal, remaining thus employed for two years.

Coming to Iowa, he worked for about six months for his uncle in Louisa county, and then returned to his old home in New York where he remained for a short time. Going to Chicago he there accepted the position of manager of one of the branch houses of Gotwalls & McDonough, art dealers, and later made his way to Burlington, Iowa, where he became identified with the R. T. Root Company, publishers, remaining with them for two years as traveling salesman. He next accepted employment with Segner & Condit, publishers, whom he also represented as journeyman for several years, and then began working for the Western Publishing House of Chicago, first as solicitor, in which capacity he remained for four years, and later as manager of a branch house. He then entered business on his own account, operating a publishing establishment at San Francisco, California, for five years. At the expiration of that time he returned to Chicago and renewed his relations with the Western Publishing House of that city, traveling between Chicago and the Atlantic coast for a few years.

Again embarking independently in business he began installing acetylene lighting systems in houses, and continued in this avenue of activity for three years, after which he laid aside business pursuits to take up the duties of the office of postmaster of Letts, Iowa, to which he had been appointed under the administration of President McKinley. He remained the incumbent of that office for two years, after which he resigned and again returned to the acetylene lighting business, in which he is yet engaged. Wide and varied have been the experiences of Mr. Van Horn, and each step in his career has witnessed his advancement in the business world until today he is ranked among the substantial and representative citizens of Grand View township.

Mr. Van Horn was married to Miss Allie Coder, a native of Ross county, Ohio, and a daughter of James M. K. and Brunetta (Keen) Coder, both of whom were born in Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation, although he also engaged in merchandising for a few years. He was married in Ohio

and soon afterward brought his wife to Iowa, locating on a farm in Muscatine county, which he operated until his retirement from active life, when he removed to Letts and there spent his remaining days. He and his wife have both passed away. In their family were eight children, as follows: John, a farmer of Muscatine county; Jane, now deceased; Sarah, the wife of John Idle, of Muscatine county; Newton G., a resident of Letts; Allie, now Mrs. Van Horn; Thomas, deceased; Lemuel, engaged in farming in Muscatine county; and Charlie, of Letts, Iowa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn have been born two children: Frank Leslie, a high school graduate, who is now married and is employed as a railroad operator in Ohio; and Lulu May, also a high school graduate, who married B. F. Snyder, engaged in the general merchandise business in Letts.

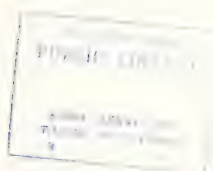
The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are actively and helpfully interested, and Mr. Van Horn is well known in Masonic circles here, he being an exemplary member of the order. He belongs to blue lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., of Letts; Composite Chapter, R. A. M., of Columbus Junction; is a Knight Templar, holding membership in the commandery at Muscatine, and also belongs to Kaab Temple, N. M. S., of Davenport, Iowa. He gives his political support to the republican party and in January, 1911, was again appointed to the office of postmaster of Letts, which position he is now filling in a most acceptable and efficient manner. His life has been one of continuous activity in which has been accorded due recognition of labor, and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of his community. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Grand View township, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the county or advance its wonderful development.

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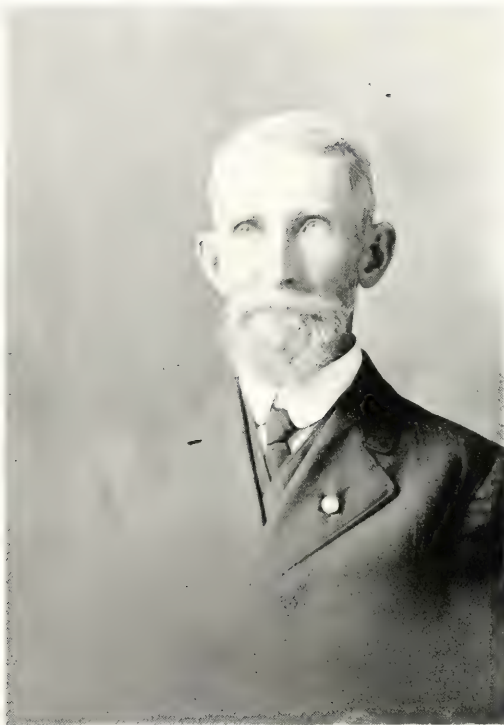
#### GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOFIELD.

That the qualities which characterize success are the same in every vocation is clearly demonstrated in the life of G. W. Schofield, the president of the Wapello State Savings Bank. Mr. Schofield is not only a well known and successful agriculturist of Port Louisa township, but he has also been prominently identified with the commercial development of Wapello, being one of those progressive, enterprising men who are always expected to take the initiative in the community where they reside.

He was born near Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, on the 12th of March, 1841, and is a son of Joseph and Charlotte (Cemister) Schofield, who were born near Manchester, England, the mother's birth occurring in 1806 and that of the father in 1807. They were married and began their domestic life in the land of their birth but in 1839 they emigrated to the United States, first locating in Franklin county, Indiana, where they engaged in farming until 1852, when they came to Iowa. Upon their arrival in this state they purchased







GEORGE W. SCHOFIELD



MRS. GEORGE W. SCHOFIELD



a farm of three hundred and twenty acres located on section 24, of Port Louisa township, in the cultivation of which the father engaged until his retirement in 1885 from active work, although he still continued to reside upon his homestead.

Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schofield, but the eldest died in England. The others are as follows: Aaron, who is a resident of Windom, Minnesota; Elizabeth, of Morning Sun, Iowa, who first married Mathew McClung, and after his death married Elisha Dobbs, also deceased; Isaac, who lives in Morning Sun; Mary, who also married twice, her first husband being William M. Herron and her second a Mr. Tucker, both deceased; G. W., our subject; Charlotte, who was born in 1843 and died in 1873; Samuel, who was born in 1845 and died in 1857; and Emeline L., the wife of George Raucher, of Port Louisa township. The mother passed away in 1882 but the father survived her for ten years, his demise occurring in 1892.

George W. Schofield was only a lad of nine years when the family located in Louisa county, in the district schools of which he acquired his education, and he assisted his father in the cultivation of the homestead until 1863. On the 7th of December of that year he enlisted as a private in Company K, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, under command of A. J. Smith, and went to the front. He saw considerable active service and participated in some of the sharp skirmishes and notable battles waged in the latter days of the war. On the 24th of August, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Davenport, having served for one year and eight months. Returning home, he and his brother took charge of the homestead, upon which Mr. Schofield has ever since resided, having acquired by inheritance and purchase two hundred and twelve acres of fine improved and highly cultivated land. He has met with most gratifying success from his various undertakings and in addition to his homestead owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Dundy county, Nebraska, and some business and residence property in Wapello. In addition to his extensive realty holdings Mr. Schofield is one of the stockholders of the Wapello State Bank and of the Wapello Fair Association, while he was one of the most active promoters, as well as largest stockholders, in the canning factory. He always gives his hearty support and cooperation to every enterprise which he feels is at all likely to advance the commercial interests of the town or county, and owing to his unusual powers as an organizer as well as his executive ability anything he undertakes is usually carried to a successful issue.

In April, 1888, Mr. Schofield was united in marriage to Miss Cassie Williams, a native of Louisa county, but she only lived about fourteen months, her demise occurring in June, 1889. The one child born of this union died in infancy. On the 28th of December, 1893, Mr. Schofield was again married, his second union being with Miss Analetta Hamilton, also a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Alexander and Susanna Hamilton. The parents were natives of Ohio, in which state they were married, subsequently coming to Iowa. They were among the pioneer settlers of the southern part of Louisa county, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. The mother passed

away in 1898 but the father still survives at the age of seventy-nine years, and is living on the old homestead with his son. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Mrs. Schofield is the eldest. The others are as follows: Alonzo G., Davilla, Frank, Bertha, George B. and Charley.

Mr. Schofield affiliates with the Presbyterian denomination while his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. His political support is always given the republican party, and he has practically filled all of the offices in his township. Success has attended the efforts of Mr. Schofield, whose foresight and sagacity, as well as strength and determination of purpose, has enabled him to attain the position to which he aspired.

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### EDWARD W. SIVERLY.

Edward W. Siverly, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Marshall township, is busily engaged in the pursuits of farming and stock-raising and owns a valuable tract of land of one hundred and sixty-six acres on section 11. His birth occurred in Oakland township, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 12th of June, 1876, his parents being George and Mary (Furnas) Siverly, the former also a native of this county. The mother of our subject was born near Troy, Ohio, and was a daughter of Wilk and Maria Furnas, who came to Louisa county about 1850, locating on a farm and here spending the remainder of their lives. The marriage of George and Mary (Furnas) Siverly was celebrated in Louisa county and the latter here passed away on the 16th of September, 1891. George Siverly, who is still numbered among the respected and worthy residents of this county, was married again, his second union being with Miss Isabelle Trine. Edward W. Siverly was the third in order of birth in a family of five children, the others being as follows: Della M., the wife of Fred Morrison, of Johnson county, Iowa; Olive E., who is the wife of Clark Faires, and also resides in Johnson county, this state; Maud M., who gave her hand in marriage to Frank Loehr, of Albert Lea, Minnesota; and S. Isabelle, the wife of Less Hill, of Louisa county.

After completing his more specifically literary education Edward W. Siverly took up the study of dentistry at Iowa City, winning the degree of D. D. S. in 1897. The following year he located for practice in North Dakota, there remaining for twelve months. On the expiration of that period he returned to Louisa county, locating at Oakville, where he likewise practiced dentistry for another year, abandoning the profession, however, at the time of his marriage. Following that important event in his life he turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, locating on the farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres which he still owns and operates on section 11, Marshall township. Among the many substantial improvements which he has placed on the property is a commodious and attractive residence. In connection with the

tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of raising hogs and horses and has met with success in both branches of his business.

On the 20th of September, 1899, Mr. Siverly was united in marriage to Miss Minnie P. Holland, who was born in Wapello township, Louisa county, on the 29th of September, 1877, her parents being Samuel and Catherine (Myers) Holland, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They came to this county in 1849, located on a farm and here spent the remainder of their lives. Samuel Holland passed away on the 11th of May, 1888, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 20th of November, 1908. They were the parents of two daughters, as follows: Nellie D., who is the wife of Thomas Delzell, of Morning Sun, Iowa; and Mrs. Siverly.

Mr. Siverly is a staunch republican in politics but has never sought office as a reward for his party fealty. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. Almost his entire life has been spent in Louisa county, where he has a wide acquaintance and is favorably known.

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### ANDREW LISCHER.

Andrew Lischer, a prosperous and representative resident of Wapello, has been for a number of years successfully engaged in the poultry and egg business at that place. His birth occurred in Pennsylvania on the 22d of October, 1867, his parents being George J. and Katherine (Mentzle) Lischer, both of whom are natives of Maryland. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1868, locating on a farm, and have since remained respected and worthy residents of this county, now making their home at Columbus City. Unto them were born five children, namely: Andrew, of this review; Sophia; Martha, who is deceased; Paul E., living in Des Moines county, Iowa; and May.

Andrew Lischer attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage at the age of twenty-four years. Following that important event in his life he removed to Florida and worked at the carpenter's trade for a year and a half. He then returned to Burlington, Iowa, where he was engaged in the drug business for eighteen months, selling out on the expiration of that period and coming to Wapello. After working in a grocery store for some time he embarked in the poultry and egg business, in which line of activity he has since met with gratifying success. He owns a large poultry house and two fine residences and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of the community.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Lischer chose Miss Bessie J. Marsden, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Henry and Bessie J. Marsden, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Lischer was one of a fam-

ily of five children, three of whom are yet living. By her marriage she has become the mother of one daughter, Helen M.

Mr. Lischer is a republican in politics and is now serving his fellow townsmen in the capacity of alderman. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodge at Columbus City, Iowa, in which he has filled all of the chairs. His wife is a consistent and devoted member of the Presbyterian church. In business his course has been characterized by the strictest fidelity to principle and in social relations he displays an unfailing courtesy and a genial cordiality that have won for him many friends.

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### ROBERT T. JONES.

Robert T. Jones, one of the influential and prosperous residents of Cotter, where he is now living retired, was long and actively identified with agricultural interests in Louisa county, owning at one time more than nine hundred acres of valuable land. His birth occurred in Liverpool, England, on the 27th of February, 1836, his parents being David M. and Elizabeth Jones, both of whom were natives of Wales. After emigrating to the United States they resided in New York for a time and subsequently removed to Ohio. In June, 1855, they came to Louisa county, Iowa, locating on a farm whereon they resided throughout the remainder of their lives and which is still in possession of the family. David M. Jones passed away in 1863, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1890, at the age of ninety years. Their children were six in number, namely: Robert T., of this review; Alice, the wife of D. G. Lewis, of Columbus City township, this county; William O. who participated in the Civil war as a member of Company F, Twenty-fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Atlanta, Georgia; Catherine, who gave her hand in marriage to Hugh Davis and was killed in a railroad wreck near Burlington; Elizabeth, the deceased wife of J. N. Evans, of Missouri; and Albert, who passed away at the age of seven years.

Robert T. Jones supplemented his preliminary education by a course of study in the Miami University of the state of Ohio, of which institution he is a graduate. During several winter seasons he followed the profession of teaching and in the summer months worked at farm labor. After the death of his parents he purchased the old homestead farm and devoted his attention to its operation throughout the remainder of his active business career. Since putting aside the work of the fields he has made his home at Cotter, where he owns a fine residence and lot. At one time his landed holdings aggregated more than nine hundred acres but he has now disposed of all except three hundred and fifty acres. He was one of the organizers of the Cotter State Savings Bank and has been identified therewith as president continuously since. He is likewise a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction and a stockholder in the Hartline State Bank of Hartline, Washington.



In February, 1864, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Dinah Davis, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Davis, who were natives of South Wales and came to America in 1853, locating on a farm in Henry county, Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity and eight of whom are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had four children, as follows: William O., who owns and operates the old homestead farm in Louisa county; H. T., who is engaged in the banking business at Hartline, Washington; and two who died in infancy. Our subject and his wife also have eight grandchildren.

In politics Mr. Jones has always been a staunch republican, loyally supporting the men and measures of that party. From 1880 until 1886 he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Louisa county. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Congregational church, to which his wife also belongs. He has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on this earthly pilgrimage and is enjoying the evening of life in honorable retirement. A resident of Louisa county for more than a half century, he is widely known within its borders and the substantial qualities which he has displayed in his citizenship and in his business relations have gained him a high place in the regard and good will of his fellow townsmen.

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#### GEORGE J. SCHNEIDER.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and five acres on section 20, Port Louisa township, is a credit to the well directed efforts of George J. Schneider, who was born in this county on the 30th of December, 1861. He is a son of Louis and Elizabeth (Schneider) Schneider, natives of Germany. The parents were married in the state of New York, following which they came to Iowa, locating upon a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which they bought three miles south of Grand View in Louisa county. They resided there until 1870, at which time they sold the place and bought eighty-two and a half acres on section 20, Port Louisa township, which they continued to cultivate until 1880, when the father retired. In the family were eight children, as follows: Louis, deceased; Louisa, the wife of Jacob Schneider, of Grand View; Henry, a resident of Wapello; George J., our subject; Daniel, who is living in Port Louisa township; and Barbara, Sarah and Mary, all of whom are deceased. The mother, who was born in 1823, passed away on the 4th of March, 1877, but the father still survives at the age of eighty-seven and makes his home with his children.

George J. Schneider was reared at home, acquiring his education in the district schools of his native county. After laying aside his school books he assisted his father in the cultivation of the homestead until he had attained his twentieth year. He worked as a farm hand for Jacob Beik four years, during which time he saved the means to enable him to farm as a renter. After cultivating leased land for two years Mr. Schneider bought a half interest in one

hundred and five acres in Port Louisa township, which he has ever since operated. He met with success in his chosen vocation and as a result acquired the remainder by purchase, every acre of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

On the 4th of April, 1894, Mr. Schneider was united in marriage to Miss Musa Graham, who was born near Wapello on the 11th of February, 1874, and a daughter of Daniel and Fannie (Hart) Graham. The father was a native of Ohio and the mother of New York but they were married in Iowa, following which the father worked out for a few years and then farmed as a renter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Graham are still living and make their home in Wapello. They are the parents of eleven children: Clarence W., who is a resident of Louisa county; Lillie, who died at the age of six years; Musa, now Mrs. Schneider; Daisy, who died at twenty months; Harry L., who is unmarried and a resident of Wapello; Myrtle, the wife of W. A. McGill, of Louisa county; Charley, who is married and living in Muscatine; Nannie, the wife of Lee Warner, of Grand View; Floyd, who is living in Wapello; Harold, a resident of the same place; and Lucille, who is at home. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider have had five children: Floyd Warren, who was born on the 11th of June, 1895; Raymond Louis, born on the 26th of October, 1896; Howard Daniel, who died at the age of five years, nine months and twenty-six days; Ermil Nellie, born on the 24th of October, 1903; and Kenneth George, born on the 13th of November, 1905.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church of which the parents are members. In his political views Mr. Schneider is a republican but he supports the men and measures that he deems will best advance the general interests. He is well known and highly regarded in the community where he is residing and where practically his entire life has been spent.

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#### REX NYEMASTER.

Although a young man Rex Nyemaster has forced his way to the front and has gained recognition as one of the substantial and progressive citizens of Wapello. He owes his success to his ambition, industry and energy—three elements that have shaped the fortunes of many of the leaders in American life. He is a native of Wapello, born October 17, 1886, and is a son of J. L. and Fannie (Mahlinger) Nyemaster, both of whom were born in Iowa. The father was for many years engaged as a carpenter and builder but is now living retired with his wife in Wapello. There were five children in their family: Ray, who was private secretary to Hon. Albert F. Dawson, member of congress from the second Iowa district, and is now engaged in the banking business at Davenport under George M. Bechtel; Lea, deceased; Rex, of this review; Oak, who is living in Washington, D. C.; and Ona, who is at home.

Rex Nyemaster received his early education in the public schools and also possessed advantages of training in the Wapello high school. After laying his

books aside he went to Davenport and was engaged about six months in the mercantile business, gaining experience that has proved of great practical benefit. He returned to Wapello and secured employment in a grocery store for about seven months, then entering the store of Charles Ruthenburg, a dealer in clothing, men's furnishings and shoes. While attending school Mr. Nyemaster assisted in this store at odd hours and he readily adapted himself to the business after becoming permanently identified with it. He applied his energies with such good results that in 1908 he was appointed manager, a position which he now holds. The store is the largest of the kind in the county and, as it has been in existence for over twenty years, is very favorably known in this part of the state. The business is conducted upon the principle of giving full and complete satisfaction to patrons and as the shelves are filled with well selected and seasonable goods the future is full of promise for this establishment.

Mr. Nyemaster was united in marriage to Miss Esther Wilton, a daughter of Theodore and Lena (Richley) Wilton. To this union one daughter, Helen, was born June 5, 1908. Mr. Nyemaster is a sincere believer in the Bible and a consistent member of the Methodist church, being a liberal contributor to that denomination and to all worthy objects. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and he is thoroughly in sympathy with the beneficent principles and practices of that order. His study of politics has convinced him of the superiority of the republican party over all others and he votes for its candidates, believing that they are best capable of representing the ideals of a modern progressive people. A close observer of the trend of events and an intelligent and patriotic citizen, Mr. Nyemaster aims to perform his part in advancing the general welfare and he is, therefore, fully entitled to the confidence and respect which he has inspired in those who know him.

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### SAMUEL ROBINSON.

Samuel Robinson, who passed away on the 26th of January, 1888, was born in County Antrim, Ireland, and was the eldest in a family of five children, all of whom are now deceased, namely: Samuel, Gordon, William, Eliza and John. Mr. Robinson, who was a carpenter by trade, emigrated to the United States about 1850, and spent about two years working at his trade in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, after which he went to Wheeling, West Virginia, about 1852. He subsequently removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he followed his trade for seven years. At the expiration of that period he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in the vicinity of Roscoe, Iowa, in the cultivation of which he engaged until his demise.

In Washington, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of December, 1855, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Rossannah McCoy, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Frazier) McCoy, both natives of Virginia, in which state they spent their entire lives. They were the parents of eight children: Ellen, the deceased wife

of Adie Bell, of West Virginia; William and Samuel, both deceased; Jane, the deceased wife of William McCoy, of West Virginia; Margaret, the deceased wife of William Slater, of Pennsylvania; Rossannah, the widow of Samuel Robinson; James, who is residing in the vicinity of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and Hamilton, deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were born four children: Elizabeth Jane, the deceased wife of John Alexander, of Louisa county; Alletta J., the wife of Mathew McCune, of Colorado; William, of Morning Sun; and Annie M., the wife of Andrew Alexander, of Louisa county.

Following the death of her husband Mrs. Robinson disposed of the homestead and coming to Morning Sun she bought a lot in the best part of the town and erected one of the finest residences in the place. Here she has ever since continued to make her home. She is a member of the Reformed Presbyterian church, with which her husband was also affiliated, and counts among its members many friends.

A man of energy and enterprise Mr. Robinson, although without means when he came to America, owned a fine farm and had gained a very comfortable competence at the time of his demise, all of which had been acquired through the united efforts and perseverance of himself and wife.

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### JOSEPH BOLTZ.

Joseph Boltz, who for many years was engaged in agricultural pursuits but is now living retired in Morning Sun enjoying the ease which is the just reward of a well spent life, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of June, 1834. He is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Shires) Boltz, now deceased, who were also natives of the Keystone state. They were the parents of ten children: Simon, who died on the 1st of June, 1909; Joseph; William, a resident of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; John, also of Lebanon; Elizabeth, deceased; Rebecca, the widow of Ephraim Mochamore, of Sinking Springs, Berks county, Pennsylvania; Catharine, the wife of Samuel Clark, of Lebanon; Mary, the deceased wife of R. R. Snively, of Annville, Pennsylvania; Fannie, the wife of William Elliott, also of Annville. The eighth in order of birth died in infancy.

After the completion of his education, which was obtained in the common schools of his native state, Joseph Boltz remained a member of the paternal household until he had attained his twenty-third year, at which time he left home to begin life for himself. He made his way westward to Iowa and there engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1860, when he went to Denver, Colorado. After spending a few weeks there he returned to Fairfield, Iowa, and in the spring of 1861 came to Louisa county and entered the Union army. He enlisted at Burlington on the 2d of June, 1861, and was mustered out on the 9th of September, 1864. He was under the command of Major Levi Chase, and at Bayou Meto, Arkansas, received two bullets which he still



JOSEPH BOLTZ



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH BOLTZ



carrying. After his discharge he returned to Louisa county, where he purchased one hundred and five acres of land, upon which he located in the spring of 1866. He engaged in the cultivation of his farm and stock-raising until 1891, when he retired to Morning Sun, where he has ever since continued to reside.

Mr. Boltz was married on the 4th of June, 1865, to Miss Elizabeth Sarah Edwards, a daughter of Hugh and Eleanor (Williams) Edwards, now deceased. The parents, who were natives of Wales, had the following children: Margaret, the wife of Benjamin Jones, of O'Brien county, Iowa; Manassa, who is a resident of Burlington; Ellen, the wife of John K. Brown, of Louisa county; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Boltz; Emma, the wife of D. R. Jones, of Louisa county; Robert and Edward, both deceased; Kate, the wife of A. Orris, of Des Moines; Mary, the wife of Jake Miller, of Kansas; Baxter, who was killed in Los Angeles, California; and Edward, deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Boltz were born six children: Joseph E., a resident of Louisa county; William S., who is living in Green Ridge, Missouri; Eleanor, deceased; Nancy Emma, the wife of William Reynolds, of Upland, California; Mary Eva, who married Charles Morrison, of Morning Sun; and Oscar, who is living in Fairfield, Iowa.

His first vote Mr. Boltz cast for Fremont and he has ever since given his political support to the candidates of the republican party and has held various township offices. Both he and his wife have long been members of the Presbyterian church, in whose congregation they have many friends to whom they extend the hospitality of their pleasant home.

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### GEORGE ISAAC CHURCH.

One of the best known residents of Columbus Junction is George Isaac Church, who has made his home here continuously for the past thirty-eight years. During all of this time he has conducted a barber shop and now has four chairs in his shop and gives employment to two assistants. He was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, February 10, 1850, a son of Isaac and Sophia (Bennett) Church, the former of whom was a native of Scotland. The father died in 1852, when the subject of this review was an infant of two years. Mrs. Church was again married, her second husband being John C. Briggs. By this marriage she became the mother of five children; Henry; John; Della; Mary; and Fred. In 1869 Mr. Briggs came with his family to Louisa county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred acres of land which became the family homestead. He died about four years ago, but Mrs. Briggs is still living on the home farm with three of her children—Henry, Della and Fred.

George Isaac Church remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age and then worked as a farm hand for two years. At the expiration of the time named he removed to Columbus Junction and opened a barber shop.



By close attention to business he has gained a competency and for many years he has attracted the largest patronage in his line in the city.

On the 13th of December, 1871, Mr. Church was married to Miss Maggie Stone, a daughter of Elder George Stone, an elder in the Church of God. Thirteen children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Church, namely: William; Verdrie; George; Anna; Robert; Charlie; Jessie; Noah; Mollie; Harry; Joseph; Rema; and Louis.

In politics Mr. Church gives his support to the democratic party. He has served as a member of the city council and also as a member of the school board, discharging his duties with the same fidelity that he gives to his own business. Fraternally he is a valued member of the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in religious belief he affiliates with the Church of God. As is indicated by the public offices he has held and his standing in the community he is a man of determination and energy and is one of the useful and honorable citizens of Columbus Junction.

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### SAMUEL F. WILSON.

One of the representative farmers of Morning Sun township is Samuel F. Wilson, who is now a member of the board of supervisors of Louisa county. He is a native and a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, his parents being William M. and Miriam (Conway) Wilson, who were natives of Illinois and England, respectively. The natal day of Samuel F. Wilson was the 2d of September, 1808, and the place of his birth the homestead which his grandfather, John Wilson, procured from the government in 1839. The Wilson family has been identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county for over seventy years, having located here during the infancy of William M. Wilson, who has passed his three score and ten. The latter still owns a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres in Morning Sun township, a large portion of which belonged to the original tract of government land entered by his father. William M. Wilson continued the cultivation of this until 1906, at which time he and his wife retired to Morning Sun, where they own a very pleasant residence. They are the parents of twelve children, all but three of whom are living. In order of birth they are as follows: Winona, now Mrs. Z. J. Wilson, of Des Moines county; William G., who is a resident of Louisa county; Samuel F., our subject; Leah R., who married T. D. Wilson, of the state of Washington; Nellie, deceased; John, who is living in Des Moines county; Sarah E., who became the wife of B. C. Owens, of Henry county, Iowa, Clarissa, deceased; Isaac, who died in infancy; Renwick G., who is living in the state of Washington; James H., who is living in this county; and Mary E., at home.



Reared on a farm, Samuel F. Wilson attended the district schools in the vicinity of his home in the acquirement of his education, at the same time becoming trained in agricultural methods. After laying aside his text-books he continued at home, assisting in the operation of the farm under the supervision of his father. When he had attained his majority he felt he was fully qualified and competent to begin for himself, so he rented land which he continued to cultivate until 1902. Having the requisite capital he then purchased one hundred and twenty-one acres of his present homestead, to which he has since added another forty, making the aggregate of his holdings one hundred and sixty-one acres. Here in connection with his general farming Mr. Wilson engages in feeding stock.

On the 4th of March, 1897, was celebrated the marriage of Samuel F. Wilson and Margaret Almira Elliott, who is the seventh child of Richard and Nancy Ann (Woodside) Elliott. She was born on the old homestead southwest of Morning Sun on the 12th of February, 1873. Her paternal grandfather, John Elliott, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1787, emigrated to the United States in his early manhood and located in Preble county, Ohio. There he met and subsequently married Miss Elizabeth Stevenson, and unto them were born fourteen children, ten of whom attained the venerable age of three score and ten. Of this number, William and Mary Jane reside in Coulterville, Illinois; Margaret Ann is now Mrs. Robinson, of Olathe, Kansas; David and Renrick live in Bellefontaine, Ohio; and Richard in Morning Sun. Mrs. Elliott passed away on the 5th of March, 1855, at the age of sixty-seven years, but her husband survived until the 9th of October, 1863, dying at the age of eighty years. Richard, who was the eleventh member of the family, was born in Fair Haven, Preble county, Ohio, on the 4th of November, 1834. At the age of sixteen years he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he continued to follow during the years of his active business life in connection with agricultural pursuits. In his early manhood he went to Coulterville, Illinois, where he remained until 1865. On the 9th of December, 1858, he was united in marriage to Nancy Ann Woodside, the third child of John J. and Mary Ann (Burns) Woodside. Her father was born in Kentucky close to the Ohio border and in the paternal line was of southern extraction, his father having been a native of South Carolina, but his mother was a Pennsylvanian. John J. Woodside married Mary Ann Burns, who was born in the District of Columbia and was of Scotch extraction, being descended from the same branch of the family as was Robert Burns, the poet. By this union eight children were born, six of whom survive, one having died in infancy and the other at the age of seventy-two. Those surviving are: S. B., who is a resident of Coulterville, Illinois; W. J., who lives at Yates Center, Kansas; J. L., a resident of Welston, Oklahoma; Sarah J., now Mrs. Hood, of Junction City, Kansas; Mary E., who is now Mrs. Carlisle, of Loveland, Colorado; and Nancy A., now Mrs. Elliott, of Morning Sun. Mrs. Woodside passed away on the 15th of March, 1892, at Coulterville at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Woodside survived her for three years, his demise occurring on the 8th of December at the same place, following the eightieth anniversary

of his birth. The family were originally Presbyterians and had long been affiliated with the Associate Reformed church, but for forty years prior to the death of the parents they had been identified with the New Light Covenanters.

Nancy Ann Woodside, now Mrs. Elliott, was the third child in the family, her natal day being the 4th of June, 1841, and the place of her birth Coulterville, Illinois. At the age of seventeen years she gave her hand in marriage to Richard Elliott, who was seven years her senior. They continued to reside in Illinois, where three of their children were born, until 1865, when they removed to Iowa. They drove to St. Louis, a distance of about fifty miles, going by rail from there to Burlington, Iowa, where they arrived on the 5th of March. They covered the distance from there to Morning Sun, which is twenty-five miles, by wagon, spending their first night at the homestead of William Cubit, now known as the Thomas Hensleigh farm. Their possessions when they arrived here consisted of a wagon and a team of horses and about five hundred dollars in money. During the first two years of their residence they lived in a small two room house about two miles southwest of Morning Sun. At the expiration of that time they purchased a farm about a mile west, to which they removed in the spring of 1867, and for more than thirty years that continued to be the family home. It is one of the valuable properties of the district, containing two hundred and forty acres of choice land, and is still in possession of the family.

By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott there were born five sons and four daughters, all of whom are living. In the order of birth they are as follows: William Joseph, born on the 17th of April, 1860, is now engaged in the grain business in Superior, Nebraska; John Calvin, born on the 9th of August, 1862, is residing on a farm four miles northwest of Superior; Annie May is the wife of William R. McElhinney, of Morning Sun; Mrs. Edith Arnetta Wilson was born on the 18th of June, 1866, and is also a resident of Morning Sun; Robert Burns, born on the 29th of March, 1868, is now a member of the Moon-Elliott Lumber Company, of Kansas City, Missouri; David Coulter, born on the 5th of March, 1870, is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Superior, Nebraska; Margaret Almira is now Mrs. Wilson; Della Elizabeth, born on the 25th of October, 1875, was married on the 25th of April, 1894, to Charles T. Reynolds, who is engaged in the grocery business in Fairfield, Iowa; and Delber Harvey, born on the 15th of October, 1878, entered the ministry and is now pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian church at Denison, Kansas. Mrs. Wilson obtained her early education in the common schools of Louisa county, after which she attended for one year both the high school at Morning Sun and the academy at Washington, Iowa, and then engaged in teaching for six years.

The domestic life of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson was begun on a farm one mile east of Morning Sun but later they located on a farm in the vicinity of Wapello. From there they removed to a farm near Newport, about four miles east of Morning Sun, where they now reside. They have a very comfortable residence and a fine farm, which is under a good state of cultivation and is well

kept. One child, Harold Elliott, has been born unto them, his birth occurred on the 5th of January, 1898.

The family attend the United Presbyterian church of Morning Sun, of which Mr. Wilson is a ruling elder. Although she held membership in the Reformed Presbyterian church prior to her marriage Mrs. Wilson subsequently united with the church with which her husband affiliated. His political allegiance has ever been given to the republican party. He has always taken a prominent part in all local affairs and has held a number of the township offices and is now serving on the board of county supervisors. He is an enterprising man of progressive ideas and in the administration of his undertakings has met with success, now being recognized as one of the prosperous agriculturists of his township.

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### CHARLES B. WILSON.

Charles B. Wilson, who is one of the prominent agriculturists of Morning Sun township, was born on the farm where he now resides on the 19th of February, 1861, being the youngest living child of James and Martha E. (Miller) Wilson. The father was born in New York city on the 24th of July, 1815, but the following year his parents removed to Washington county, Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1825. They then went to Preble county, Ohio, where they spent the winter, and the following spring they removed to Union county, Indiana, where James Wilson grew to manhood. He continued to reside in that state until 1840, at which time he went west for the purpose of looking up a new location, and being well pleased with Louisa county, Iowa, filed on a tract of government land. Subsequently he returned to Indiana, where he remained for a time, and then took up his permanent residence in Louisa county. After locating here he established a brickyard and kiln, being the first person to engage in the manufacture of brick in this county.

On the 1st of June, 1843, he was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Miller, a native of Pennsylvania, and they began their domestic life in a brick residence which Mr. Wilson had erected on his forty acre farm. This was among the first brick houses in the county, and was the birthplace of their children. They had four sons and four daughters, who in order of birth were as follows: John W.; Mary E., who became the wife of George M. Simpson, a resident of Kansas, and died February 15, 1910; Margaret J., the widow of John W. Wilson and a resident of Pasadena, California; Cynthia E., who has been a missionary teacher in India since 1876; George B.; William G.; Rosana T., who has also been a missionary teacher in India since 1886; and Charles B. The father passed away on the 18th of December, 1891, but his wife survived him until the 26th of March, 1896, being laid to rest in Brown cemetery.

After the completion of his preliminary education, which was acquired in the common schools of Louisa county, Charles B. Wilson pursued a business course in a commercial college. He remained under the parental roof until he

had attained his majority when he rented the old homestead, which he cultivated for ten years. At the end of that time he purchased it and has since added to his holdings until he now owns three hundred and seventy-five acres on sections 28 and 29, Morning Sun township. In addition to the cultivation of his land Mr. Wilson makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock. He has made a success of his undertakings and now owns one of the valuable properties of the township, his farm being well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Wilson was married on the 22d of December, 1885, to Miss Anna J. Willson, who was born in Des Moines county on the 7th of August, 1861, a daughter of James R. and Myrilla (Reed) Willson. Her father, who was a native of Pennsylvania, came to this county in 1850 and here her parents were married at the home of her uncle, David Robinson, February 16, 1853. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Des Moines county, where Mr. Willson had preempted land, and they continued to reside there until he retired from active labor and removed to Morning Sun, in 1896. He is still a resident of that city, but his wife died there on the 26th of October, 1909. She was born in Ohio and in early life accompanied her married sister on the latter's removal to Des Moines county, Iowa. For about three years she engaged in teaching school in Louisa county, having charge of the same school that her grandchildren—the children of Mrs. C. B. Wilson—now attend.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Wilson were born the following children: Ella M., who was born on the 20th of February, 1894, and died five days later; E. Raymond, who was born on the 20th of September, 1896, and is now attending high school; G. Russell, born on the 22d of February, 1898; James Ralph, born on the 7th of May, 1903; and Ethel Myrilla, whose birth occurred on the 9th of August, 1906.

Mr. Wilson's political support is given such men and measures as he deems best adapted to meet the exigencies of the situation. Although he is a public-spirited citizen and takes an active interest in governmental matters he has never identified himself with any party. For the past six years he has been serving as assessor in his township and has been a member of the school board for twenty years, educational matters always having interested him very much. Mr. Wilson and his family are highly regarded in the township where they reside and among its citizens they number many friends.

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### LLOYD MARSHALL.

For more than seventy years the name of Marshall has been actively identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county, the family continuing to be represented in the person of Lloyd Marshall. He was born in this county on the 15th of May, 1862, and is a son of James H. and Nancy (Sellers) Marshall. His paternal grandfather, Lloyd Marshall, for whom Marshall town-

ship was named, came to Louisa county in 1838 and settled about a quarter of a mile west of the village of Cairo. Among his children were Eleanor, who became the wife of Newton Sellers; James Marshall, who married Nancy Sellers; Mary, the wife of Erastus Weaver; John S.; and Robert, who is a resident of Colorado. Of the union of James H. and Nancy Marshall were born six children: Alva, who is a resident of Louisa county; Hayes, who is deceased; Laura, the wife of Dave Brown, of Columbus City township; Lloyd, our subject; Sherman, who is deceased; and the eldest, who died in infancy.

Upon the completion of his education which was acquired in the common schools of this county, Lloyd Marshall began in life as a farmer, which vocation he has ever since followed. He now owns ninety-seven and a half acres of land in Marshall township, where he is engaging in general farming and stock-raising, his efforts in this direction meeting with very good returns.

Mr. Marshall was united in marriage on the 23d of January, 1880, to Miss Annie Ireton, a daughter of Obadiah and Elizabeth (Mottsinger) Ireton. Of the six children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Ireton, but two, besides Mrs. Marshall, are now surviving: William, the eldest, who is a resident of Columbus City; and Jennie the wife of Frank Huffman, of South Dakota. Those deceased are: Joseph, Spencer and Cora. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall never having had any children of their own have adopted a son, James Hilton Marshall, who is now ten years of age.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Marshall are earnest Christians and in politics he always gives his support to the republican party, considering that its policy is best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. He is highly regarded in the community where he has so long resided, and is known to be one who ever strives to be loyal to the highest principles of life in all of his relations, both public and private.

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#### ANDREW WALZ.

Among the worthy citizens which Germany has contributed to the agricultural community of Louisa county is numbered the late Andrew Walz. He was born and reared in the fatherland, where he resided until 1852, at which time he emigrated to the United States, locating in Johnson county, Iowa, and there he was engaged in farming for eight years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Louisa county, where his wife, who previous to her marriage was Miss Elizabeth Lindberg, passed away in 1870. The father survived for thirteen years thereafter, his demise occurring on the 15th of May, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Walz were the parents of seven children, three of whom survive: Mary E., John C. and Martin S. All acquired their educations in the common schools of Iowa. They have never married and Mary Walz is keeping house for her two brothers, who are engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of Poland China hogs.

They own a farm of one hundred and thirty-three acres on sections 10, 15 and 2 of Jefferson township, which is well improved and highly cultivated. Their residence is very comfortable and pleasant, while the barns and outbuildings are substantially constructed and conveniently arranged. The property is well fenced and drained, and the fields thoroughly tilled. Careful attention is also given to the grounds which are kept up in a manner that adds much to the attractive appearance of the place. In fact throughout the community in which they reside the Walz brothers are recognized as progressive and enterprising agriculturists whose success is the well merited reward of capably directed effort and untiring energy.

The political views of the brothers coincide with the principles of the republican party, for whose candidates they always cast their ballot. They take an active and helpful interest in all township affairs. Both are highly regarded in the community in which they live and where they are counted among the substantial citizens.

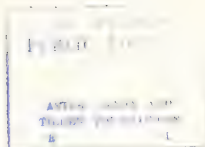
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#### CLARK D. SHEAFOR.

One of the citizens of Jefferson township who for more than twenty years has been actively identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county is Clark D. Sheafor, who is engaged in the cultivation of a fine farm of one hundred and nineteen acres. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, on the 28th of October, 1858, and is a son of Haden and Rebecca (Vanscoyk) Sheafor. The father, who was a native of Kent, Ohio, migrated to Clark county, Missouri, with his family in 1859, and after residing there for two years they came to Louisa county, where both the father and mother passed away. Of the seven children born to them three are now living: Mary K., who is the widow of George Shaw, of Wapello; Sarah E., the wife of Samuel Herlick, of Oakville; and Clark D., our subject.

Clark D. Sheafor has spent practically his entire life in Louisa county, in whose district schools he acquired his education. At the age of sixteen years he began his business career by engaging as a farm hand, continuing to be identified with that occupation until he attained his maturity. He then rented a farm, which he cultivated for several years, after which his wife inherited their present homestead, located on section 10, Jefferson township. Here he has ever since engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

In February, 1891, Mr. Sheafor was united in marriage to Miss Ameda J. Spitsnogle, a daughter of John H. and Sarah (Shaw) Spitsnogle, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Iowa. Five children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Spitsnogle, three of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Sheafor have four children, as follows: Delmar G., who is at home; Desdemona G., attending school in Wapello; Cornelia M.; and Abie Rebecca.







C. D. SHEAFOR AND FAMILY





MR. AND MRS. HADEN SHEAFOR



MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. SPITSNOGLE



His political allegiance Mr. Sheafor gives to the republican party and he is now serving as school director. Both he and Mrs. Sheafor affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church and take an interest in all religious activities. Mr. Sheafor, who is one of the substantial and competent agriculturists of Jefferson township, is held in high regard in the community where he resides, as is also his family.

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### FRANK T. IVES.

Frank T. Ives, clerk of the county court of Louisa county, was born in Wapello, January 12, 1875, and has spent his entire life in this county. A man of industry and sound judgment, he has applied himself to good advantage and is today one of the most useful and popular citizens of the county. He is a son of Cicero J. and Rebecca L. (Townsend) Ives, both of whom were born in this county. His grandfather, Cicero Madison Ives, died April 22, 1847, and his wife survived only three years. The son, Cicero J. Ives, was early thrown upon his own resources and as he possessed very limited advantages in the way of school training, his education was gained principally in the great school of the world. However, he was an apt pupil and overcame many difficulties, gradually gaining a foothold as one of the prominent citizens of Louisa county. He was appointed deputy sheriff and in 1875 engaged in the drug business, later branching out into the general merchandise field. He served as deputy county auditor for seven years and in 1899 was elected auditor, which office he filled for six years. After retiring from this responsibility he removed to Fort Dodge, Iowa. He is now sixty-seven years of age. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cicero J. Ives, six of whom survive, namely: Frank T.; Nellie E., who is the wife of Oliver Gunnels, of Fort Dodge; Mamie E., who married William Van Horn, also of Fort Dodge; Rose A.; Cornelia M., who became the wife of James Phelan, of Fort Dodge; and Walter M., who makes his home in Fort Dodge.

Mr. Ives, the subject of this review, attended the public schools and later was a student for one year in the Wapello high school. At the age of thirteen he was obliged to lay aside his books in order to provide a maintenance for himself and he began working at the carpenter's trade, at which he continued at various times for about five years. He also learned steam engineering. In 1899, after the election of his father to the office of county auditor, he was appointed deputy auditor and served for six years, also continuing under H. W. Baker for two years. In May, 1907, he was appointed clerk of the county court and has since very acceptably filled that position.

On August 3, 1903, Mr. Ives was united in marriage to Miss Clyde C. Shipman, a daughter of O. E. and Samantha Shipman. Two children were the fruits of this union: Louis E., who was born September 1, 1906; and Frances, who was born June 26, 1909, and died in infancy.

Mr. Ives has proven a capable and faithful official and enjoys the unqualified regard of his friends and associates and the confidence of the people. In politics he adheres to the republican party and fraternally he is a valued member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. In religious belief he affiliates with the Methodist church. Having as a boy learned the great lesson of self-reliance and the importance of conscientious application in the accomplishment of any worthy object he has performed to the best of his ability whatever his hands have found to do and it requires no prophet to foretell that his future will be one of steady progress and large accomplishment.

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#### HARVEY HARRIS.

The late Harvey Harris, who for half a century was identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county, had passed his ninetieth anniversary at the time of his demise, which occurred on the 16th of December, 1907. He was born in Lincoln county, Ohio, on the 21st of September, 1817, and was a son of Thomas and Rachel (Sutton) Harris, also natives of Ohio. In the paternal line he was of English extraction, the family having located in America during the colonial days. His grandfather, W. M. Harris participated in the Revolutionary war and after the founding of the Union he migrated to the frontier, as Ohio was then termed.

Harvey Harris was reared and educated in his native state, where he continued to reside until 1851, in which year he migrated to Iowa and located in Louisa county. Here he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land which he cleared and improved, engaging in general farming and stock-raising during the remainder of his active career. He owned about eight hundred acres when he died. In his family were eight children: Harriet, a resident of Morning Sun, and the widow of Alexander Hamilton, of Bushnell, Illinois; Isaac, who is deceased; Thomas, a resident of Marshall township; Rachel, who is living on the old homestead; Joseph, who makes his home in Morning Sun; Jasper N., living in Wapello; Eugene, who is deceased; and George B., of Morning Sun. Mrs. Harris, the mother of these children, passed away twelve years before her husband, her demise occurring on the 30th of January, 1895.

Politically Mr. Harris affiliated with the democratic party. He was a public-spirited man and possessed a strong sense of his civic responsibilities, so that he always took an active and helpful interest in all township matters of a governmental nature. He filled the various minor offices of the township and was also county supervisor, giving faithful and competent service in the discharge of his official responsibilities. During the long period of his residence here Mr. Harris saw many changes in agricultural and commercial methods, as well as in the mode of living, as the country developed and civilization spread westward. Steam cars superseded the stage-coach, while the amount of manual labor essential to the cultivation of the soil was very greatly minimized by the

advent of modern farming implements, but probably his most interesting observations were in connection with the development of the Union, which he noted slowly advance through the period of reconstruction to the firm, stable position it holds today with the great nations of the world.

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### REUBEN HEINDEL.

Reuben Heindel, who is now living retired at Columbus Junction in the enjoyment of a comfortable home, the result of his prudence and good business judgment, is a native of Columbus City township, and was born June 10, 1860, a son of Samuel and Susan (Rathfon) Heindel, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Iowa in 1853 and located on a farm in Louisa county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father died in April, 1874, and the mother July 1, 1888. There were nine children in their family, five of whom survive, Reuben being the youngest. The others are: David and Samuel, both of whom are living in Colorado; Mary Jane, the widow of Marian Carter and now living in Salt Lake City; and Julia, who is the wife of Edward Williams, of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Heindel, of this review, possessed advantages of education in the public schools and grew to maturity under the parental roof. He began farming upon his own account on rented land in Louisa county. After several years he purchased a place on section 3, Columbus City township, which he greatly improved by the erection of buildings and fences and the proper rotation of crops, thus largely adding to its value. He engaged in general agriculture but made a specialty of raising and feeding stock for the market, his labors being abundantly rewarded. After spending nineteen years upon his farm he purchased a handsome residence in Columbus Junction, where he and his family now live.

On the 22d of March, 1881, Mr. Heindel was married to Miss Emma M. C. Hanft, who was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1861, a daughter of John and Helena (Smith) Hanft. Mr. and Mrs. Heindel became the parents of six children, namely: Theodore F., who was born December 5, 1881, and died September 22, 1882; Nellie B., who was born January 25, 1883, and died April 26, 1886; Malcolm J., born November 30, 1885, and now living at home; Helena L., born March 29, 1889, and now the wife of Samuel James, of Columbus City; Eva M., who was born August 13, 1891, and who is at home; and Francis E., born January 11, 1894, and also at home.

Mr. Heindel is an adherent of the republican party and, while he has not sought public office, he has served as member of the school board. He is not identified with any religious denomination, but his estimable wife is a valued member of the United Brethren church. He early learned the importance of labor and applied himself so industriously that he acquired a competence, thus making it possible for him to relinquish active labor before being obliged to do so by the encroachments of age. A native of Louisa county, he has spent his

entire life in this section of the state and has been an interested witness of its progress. He is a man of genial social characteristics, frank, straightforward and modest, and one who has always won the confidence of those with whom he associated. His course through life has been honorable and upright and, therefore, he is fully entitled to the esteem in which he is held by the entire community.

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### JOSEPH J. PARSONS.

One of the most extensive landowners of Louisa county was the late Joseph J. Parsons, who with his brother H. J. N. Parsons owned and cultivated twenty-eight hundred acres of land. Mr. Parsons was born in Hardy county, West Virginia, on the 19th of November, 1810, and was a son of Jonathan and Agnes (Nevill) Parsons, also natives of West Virginia, whence they removed to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1836. Upon their arrival here they located upon a farm, in the cultivation of which the father engaged until the death of his wife in 1855. He passed away in 1882. Four children were born to them: H. J. N., Joseph J., Mary C., wife of the late M. T. Denison, and Asdrubel S. All are now deceased.

Joseph J. Parsons acquired his education in the common schools and was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he adopted for his life vocation after laying aside his text-books. He met with most gratifying success in his work and was one of the largest property holders in the county at the time of his death.

Mr. Parsons was married three times, his first wife being Miss Martha A. Smith, who was a native of Kentucky and whom he married in 1851. She passed away four years later and in 1856 Mr. Parsons married her sister Sarah E. Smith, who died the following year. Of these two unions four children were born, all of whom are deceased. On the 27th of October, 1859, Mr. Parsons and Miss Mary E. Coleman, who was also a native of West Virginia, were married. Her parents were Fleming and Lydia A. (Smith) Coleman, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. They came to Iowa in 1852, locating in Louisa county, where the mother passed away in 1860. Later Mr. Coleman was married to Mrs. Mary E. Crane of Muscatine county, where they resided for twenty years, at the end of which period Mrs. Coleman died and he made his home with his daughter Mrs. Parsons until his death with the exception of two years when he visited his son in Colorado. His demise occurred at the home of Mrs. Parsons on the 13th of January, 1898, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-four years. Eleven children were born of his first union, three of whom are surviving: T. B. S. Coleman, a resident of the state of Washington; Mary E., now Mrs. Parsons; and D. F., who is living in Wapello. One daughter, Luella, was born of the second union, and she is now the wife of C. G. Terry, of Muscatine. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were born four children: Douglas D., who was born on the 1st of De-

cember, 1861, and died on the 12th of January, 1904; Olive T., the wife of William C. Smith, of this county; Asdrubel H., also of this county; and Walter F., who was born on the 7th of July, 1870, and died in 1872. Mr. Parsons died on the 4th of February, 1880, and was laid to rest in the Parsons cemetery. In 1891 his widow, Mary E. Parsons, was united in marriage to his brother and business partner, H. J. N. Parsons, who passed away on the 15th of November of the same year. She and her two surviving children, therefore, own almost all of the twenty-eight hundred acres of land formerly held in common by the brothers.

The religious views of the family coincide with the articles of faith of the Methodist Episcopal denomination with which church Mrs. Parsons affiliates.

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### J. W. YOTTER.

The entire life of J. W. Yotter, who is engaged in general farming in Elliott township, has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. Born in the state of New York, Mr. Yotter's natal day was the 12th of January, 1855. His parents were Christ and Catherine (Byers) Yotter. The father, who was a native of Germany, emigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen years, landing in New York, in which state he was later married. In 1858 he and his wife removed to Iowa, settling on a farm in Lee county, and there the mother passed away in 1860. Mr. Yotter continued to reside on his homestead for eleven years thereafter, but in 1871 he came to Louisa county, where he remained for five years. At the expiration of that period he returned to Lee county, where he continues to make his home. Two children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Yotter, a son and a daughter. The latter, who is the younger, became the wife of Christ Elenberger, a resident of Lee county, Iowa.

J. W. Yotter, of this review, who was reared at home and educated in the district schools, remained a member of his father's household assisting in the cultivation of the homestead until he was twenty-one. He subsequently rented a farm in Louisa county, which he operated for twenty-one years, during which time he saved sufficient capital to enable him to acquire property of his own. In 1901 he bought forty acres of land on section 30, Elliott township, in which he has wrought many improvements, having erected some fine buildings and brought the land into a high state of cultivation. In addition to his homestead Mr. Yotter owns twenty acres on section 10, of the same township, which he purchased in 1903.

Mr. Yotter was married April 29, 1880, to Miss Margaret F. Bowers, a daughter of Veit and Dora (Miller) Bowers, natives of Germany, whence they came to America. Here the father died and the mother, who still survives, resides in Oakville, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Yotter are the parents of four children, as follows: William H.; Edward L.; Sadie A., who is a dressmaker; and Lenna M., who is engaged in teaching. All four are still at home with the parents.



The family manifest their religious views through their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Yotter gives his political support to the men and measures of the republican party. A public-spirited citizen, Mr. Yotter renders such service as he is able in the administration of the township government, and is now serving as trustee. He is an ex-member of the school board. Mr. Yotter is a man of energy and perseverance and has met with a fair degree of success in his vocation, being the owner of one of the good farms of the township.

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### JOHN B. McCULLOUGH.

John B. McCullough, who has lived retired in Wapello for the past twenty-eight years, was successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and still owns five hundred and eighty-five acres of valuable land in association with his son. His birth occurred in Rush county, Indiana, on the 16th of April, 1828, his parents being Simeon and Mary (Sydener) McCullough, who were born in Kentucky in 1794. The mother was born on the 3d of May of that year. Their children were eleven in number, as follows: William, whose natal year was 1816; Andrew; Catherine; Elizabeth; Margaret; James; John B., of this review; Simeon; Mary; Nancy; and Jacob, whose birth occurred in 1836.

John B. McCullough attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and when sixteen years of age began working by the month, buying eighty acres of land with the money which he earned. By additional purchase he extended the boundaries of his farm to include one hundred and twenty acres and remained thereon until he had attained the age of fifty-three years, being busily engaged in its further cultivation and improvement. In 1864 he removed to Monmouth, Illinois, where he was engaged in mercantile business until 1878. He then went to Nebraska, where he lived on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres for three years. In 1881 he came to Wapello, Louisa county, Iowa, and, as above stated, has here resided continuously since, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease. He still owns five hundred and eighty-five acres of rich and productive land in association with his son and is widely recognized as one of the substantial and respected citizens of the community.

Mr. McCullough has been married three times. On the 30th of January, 1851, he wedded Miss Margaret R. Wright, a daughter of Silas M. and Annie (Hamilton) Wright. Their union was blessed with four children, as follows: Mary, the deceased wife of Rev. U. Z. Gilner, of Warren county, Illinois; William W., of Monmouth, Illinois, who was the builder of the interurban railroad from Monmouth to Galesburg; Silas S., who died in infancy; and Thomas, born February 18, 1864, who is engaged in the lumber business at Mathersville, Illinois. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 13th of November, 1870, and on the 23d of October, 1872, Mr. McCullough was again married, his



second union being with Miss Mary I. Davison, by whom he had two children: Roy, a banker of Wapello; and Cora Blanch, who died on the 12th of August, 1887, at the age of six years. Mr. McCullough lost his second wife on the 3d of March, 1901, and on the 11th of November, 1903, wedded Miss Alice Thomas, a daughter of George F. and Elizabeth Reardon (Minton) Thomas. George F. Thomas formerly served as postmaster of Wapello.

Mr. McCullough gave his early political allegiance to the democracy but at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war became a republican and has since remained a stalwart advocate of the men and measures of that party. In 1853 he was elected county surveyor of Bush county, Indiana, serving for a term of four years. In 1871 he was chosen county surveyor of Warren county, Illinois, for a term of four years, his duties including the testing of scales and the examination of coal mines and railroads. The cause of education has ever found in him a staunch champion and for fifteen years he held the office of school director. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. He has now passed the eighty-third milestone on this earthly pilgrimage and has so lived that he can look back upon the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

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### JAMES GEDDES BAKER.

James Geddes Baker, who is successfully engaged as a photographer at Columbus Junction, was born in Louisa county March 12, 1868, a son of Benjamin Stephen and Nancy Agnes (Wykert) Baker. The father was a native of New York state and the mother of West Virginia, later becoming a resident of Louisa county in 1835. Mr. Baker, Sr., was a carpenter, but during the later years of his life devoted his attention to farming. He died in 1882, the mother being called away three years later. They were the parents of two children: Benjamin Franklin, who is now living in Louisa county; and James Geddes.

Mr. Baker, of this review, possessed advantages of education in the district schools until he was fourteen years of age. Not being attracted to farming, he learned the printer's trade, which he followed for fifteen years. In the meantime his natural artistic talents began to manifest themselves and he took up the study of photography, to which he has given his attention for the last fourteen years. He has had an extensive experience and has attained high proficiency in the art, being now the owner of the leading photograph gallery of Columbus Junction, where he has been located since 1907.

In 1895 Mr. Baker was married to Miss Clara Elizabeth Grafe, a daughter of Theodore and Elizabeth Grafe. Mrs. Baker died in the fall of 1898 leaving a son, James Walter, who was born in February of the same year. On May 11, 1907, Mr. Baker was again married, the lady of his choice being Miss Bessie Forbes, a daughter of William C. and Henrietta (Kincaid) Forbes. She was a member of a family of thirteen children, of whom the first two, Maud and

George, are deceased, the others in the order of their birth being: Bessie, Mildred, who is the wife of Claude Lamar, of Muscatine, Iowa, and Frank, Addie, Ora, Lydia, Willie, Verda, Rowena, Nina and Zelma, all of whom are living in Muscatine.

Politically Mr. Baker is an earnest supporter of the republican party and fraternally is connected with the Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Aid Society. Mrs. Baker attends the Reformed church. The success of Mr. Baker in his business has been due to natural talents, and an ambition to excel which has not permitted him to rest satisfied with an ordinary measure of proficiency. He has made a close study of his art from every practical standpoint and his work attracts favorable comment wherever it is shown, his patrons being among the best people in this part of the state.

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### HARRIS HOWEY, M. D.

Dr. Harris Howey, deceased, was for many years one of the most honored and highly esteemed citizens of Wapello, where he made his home for almost seven decades, and throughout his active professional career enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice. His birth occurred in Canandaigua, New York, on the 3d of May, 1817, his parents being Thomas and Lodema (Harris) Howey. On the maternal side, his ancestors came from England to the new world in 1647 with the Plymouth Pilgrims and located in New London, Connecticut, but subsequently removed to New York, taking up their abode on the Susquehanna river. The Doctor's father was born in the north of Ireland and on coming to America located in Coldwater, Michigan, where he worked at the blacksmith's trade. About the year 1776 he removed to Ohio and from there to Canandaigua, New York, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber land. He cleared and improved his property and in connection with farming conducted a blacksmith shop. His wife was an expert weaver and wove most of the cloth for her bed clothes, clothing, etc. She died in New York in 1833 and the father passed away in 1838 at Columbus, Ohio, where he was then making his home. In their family were twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, all of whom are now deceased, and of whom our subject was the seventh, in order of birth.

Dr. Harris Howey passed his boyhood in his native state, procuring the best education obtainable in the public schools. When a youth of fifteen he began earning his own livelihood, clerking in a dry goods store for one year. On the expiration of that period he took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the Geneva Medical College, at Geneva, New York, with the class of 1837. During the years 1845 and 1846 he also attended the St. Louis Medical College, of which institution he was likewise a graduate. He began practice at Coldwater, Michigan, but remained there only a short time and on the 10th of December, 1839, took up his residence in New Boston, Illinois, where he taught school for two months. He then turned his attention to the practice of medicine and rode



DR. HARRIS HOWEY



over the country night and day, covering a large territory in the discharge of his professional duties. Finding that his practice was principally on the west side of the Mississippi river, he removed to Wapello, Iowa, in the spring of 1841, becoming a pioneer physician of Louisa county where he rapidly built up an extensive practice, to which he devoted himself for the greater part of twenty-two years.

Dr. Howey was first married in New Boston, Illinois, in 1840, to Miss Susan Dellabarr, who died in less than two years, and their only child, a daughter, died at the age of eight years. The Doctor was again married March 24, 1844, his second union being with Miss Sarah J. Marshall, a native of Wellsburg, West Virginia, who came to Iowa in 1840 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Marshall, early and prominent pioneers of Louisa county. She died November 29, 1880. The children born to them were: Mrs. Virginia Ingersoll, now a resident of Clarksville, Missouri; Thomas, deceased, whose wife and daughter reside in Chicago; Frank, a resident of Lemmon, South Dakota; and Charles of St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1851, during the gold excitement on the Pacific coast, Dr. Howey went overland by ox team to California, being away from Iowa about one year and returning by way of the Isthmus of Panama and Cuba. On his return trip he became quite familiar with the institution of slavery and was greatly impressed by the wrongs surrounding it, and his heart was enlisted for its suppression. Answering to his country's call, he was commissioned surgeon of the Twentieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry on the 17th of August, 1863, and did active and efficient service with his regiment until March, 1865, when he was forced to resign on account of physical disabilities. He then returned to Wapello, incapacitated by continued ill health for pursuing the practice of his chosen profession. In 1865 he was appointed examining surgeon for pension applicants and held that position for several years. In 1870 he removed to a farm in Marshall township where he engaged in farming for several years. He was appointed United States gauger in 1873 and served until the following year, when he removed from his farm to Wapello and there engaged in the drug business until his retirement from active life. With the exception of ten years, while living in Burlington, Iowa, he continued a resident of Wapello until his death, which occurred May 13, 1911, when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-four years and ten days.

On the 15th of March, 1883, Dr. Howey was united in marriage to Miss Lida McMahill, to whom he was greatly attached, and during the whole of their married life they were never separated even for a single night. They became the parents of one daughter, Sadie Lodema, who was born May 19, 1891, and died on the 29th of the following August. Mrs. Howey is one of the most highly esteemed ladies of the county, is very intellectual, possesses a fine memory, and is a good writer.

William McMahill, the father of Mrs. Howey, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, June 22, 1824, and was married in Pike county, Illinois, in 1847, to Miss Mary Walker, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, August 24, 1824, and

whose father belonged to the nobility of Scotland. After his marriage Mr. McMahill engaged in farming in Pike county, Illinois, until 1855, when he removed to the northern part of that state and in 1860 came to Louisa county, Iowa, here buying two hundred and fifty acres of land, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his life. He died on the 22nd of April, 1904, and his widow, who will be eighty-four years of age in August, 1911, now resides in Wapello. In politics he was a Republican, and being one of the leading men of his community, was called upon to serve as county supervisor, school director, and in other local offices. He was a member of the Christian church and was also identified with the Grange. In his family were eight children, four sons and four daughters, namely: James, now a resident of Moberly, Missouri; Erastus, living in Louisa county, Iowa; Mahala, the wife of Asa Knight, of Wapello; Mrs. Howey; Minnie, the wife of Lou Hart, of Wapello; John, of Louisa county; Anna, the wife of Lee Bishop, of Muscatine, Iowa; and William, also of Wapello.

Dr. Howey cast his first vote for Harrison and Tyler, the whig candidates, and later became identified with the Republican party. Fraternally he was connected with the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while in religious belief he was a Methodist. During his last years he was unable to take an active part in public affairs, but was always glad to meet his old friends and talk over old times. He often recalled the erection of the first Methodist church in Wapello, a brick structure which for many years served as a house of worship. For over six years before his death he was the oldest resident of Wapello and was the only living war physician and surgeon within the borders of Louisa county. For several years his birthday was made the occasion for the gathering of a number of his friends, where kind commemorative words were spoken in his honor and gifts were presented to him as tokens of esteem. He was a man of strong personality, enduring vitality and positive opinions, but warm and generous-hearted. Whatever mistakes he may have made in life he would have gladly corrected them all, desiring to go out of the world wholly at peace with all men and with God.

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### JOHN HARDMAN.

The late John Hardman, who was one of the capable agriculturists of Port Louisa township, was born in Cedar county, Iowa, on the 14th of April, 1865. He was a son of Silas and Amanda (Fulwider) Hardman, also natives of Cedar county, where the father was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1885, at which time he disposed of his homestead and came to Louisa county, where he bought another farm, in the operation of which he engaged for five years. At the expiration of that period he sold his property and he and his wife removed to Grand View, where they are now living retired. Unto them were born four

children, the order of their birth being as follows: Charles, who is a resident of Louisa county; John; Ella, the wife of David Woodruff, of Louisa county; and Jane, who married William Khone, a resident of Muscatine county.

The early years of John Hardman's life were not unlike those of the majority of lads who are born and reared in the rural districts. His education was acquired in the common schools of his native county, following which he engaged in farm work with the expectation of making it his vocation. For eleven years after his marriage he rented land and during that time he managed to save enough from his income to purchase one hundred and twenty acres on section 3, Port Louisa township, in the cultivation of which he engaged until his demise in February, 1907.

Mr. Hardman was married at the age of twenty-seven to Miss Mollie Beik, on the 11th of February, 1892. Mrs. Hardman is a native of Louisa county, her natal day being the 5th of July, 1868, a daughter of Jacob and Emma (Jackson) Beik, whose complete biography appears on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Hardman became the parents of three children: Guy H., who was born on the 30th of August, 1893, and is now a student in the high school, still residing at home; Milton B., whose birth occurred on the 30th of October, 1896, and who is also attending school; and Grace Lucille, who was born November 15, 1904.

The family continue to reside upon the homestead to which Mrs. Hardman has added another forty acres since the demise of her husband. She now owns one hundred and sixty acres of finely improved land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. They are all earnest Christians, as was also Mr. Hardman, and are highly regarded and esteemed in the community where they reside.

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### J. A. SWAN.

The late J. A. Swan, who for over forty years was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Louisa county, was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 7th of December, 1837, being a son of James M. and Nancy A. (Rouse) Swan. The parents, who were both natives of Pennsylvania, came to Iowa in 1846, locating on a farm in Louisa county.

J. A. Swan, who was only a lad of nine years when his parents settled in Iowa, acquired the greater part of his education in this county. He attended the first school established in Morning Sun township, which was held in a log house, poorly ventilated and inadequately lighted, but little provision having been made at that period for educational facilities. His boyhood and youth were very similar to those of the majority of farmer lads of that period, much of his time, when not in school, being devoted to the work of the fields. He remained a member of the parental household until the breaking out of the Civil war in 1861 at which time he enlisted and went to the front with the



Eighth Iowa Cavalry. Although he served for three years, during which time he participated in some of the most hotly contested battles of the war, Mr. Swan never sustained an injury. He was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, following which he returned home and again engaged in farming, continuing in that occupation until his demise on the 6th of July, 1900.

On January 31, 1867, he was married to Miss Anna E. Paisley, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1848. She is a daughter of S. M. and Sarah Ann (Savage) Paisley, also natives of the Buckeye state. Her mother died near Athens, Ohio, in 1855, and in 1862, her father married Sarah Skinner, near Winfield, Iowa. He came to Louisa county in 1859 and resided here for fifteen years, when he removed to Adair county, Iowa, going from there to Taylor county, Iowa. His second wife died in Lenox, Iowa, and he was living with his daughter, Mrs. J. A. Swan, at the time of his demise, which occurred January 28, 1911, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-nine years. Mr. Paisley had twelve children, six by each marriage.

Mrs. Swan, who is living in Morning Sun, where she owns a nice residence, continues to hold the title to one hundred and twenty acres of the original Swan homestead, which was entered from the government over sixty years ago and has ever since been in the family. It is well improved and under a good state of cultivation, being considered one of the valuable properties of Morning Sun township.

Mr. Swan was a member of the Presbyterian church, with which Mrs. Swan is also affiliated, and always took an earnest and helpful interest in its work and administration. He was a member of the board of trustees for over forty years and during more than half of that period he was also an elder of the church. Mrs. Swan has always taken a prominent and active part in the work of the Missionary Society and for more than a quarter of a century she has been a teacher in the Sunday school. She has many warm friends in Morning Sun, whose regard she has won and retained through her kindly helpful nature and thoughtful ministrations in time of trouble.

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### GEORGE W. MELLINGER.

One of Louisa county's pioneer settlers who for many years was identified with the agricultural development of the county is George W. Mellinger, who is now living retired in Oakville. A native of Germany, he was born in Baden on the 28th of March, 1828, and is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Hoak) Mellinger, who spent their entire lives in the fatherland. Of their nine children only two are living: Michael, who is also a resident of this county; and George W., our subject.

Educated in the common schools of his native land, George W. Mellinger continued to reside there until twenty-two years of age, at which time he decided to test the truth of the wonderful stories he had heard about the oppor-



tunities of acquiring riches in America. He took passage for the United States in 1851, and landed in New York, in which state he remained for three years thereafter. At the end of that period he returned to the old country for three months. On again coming to America, he was married in New York in 1855 and the following year came to Iowa, locating in Burlington, where he remained for a year. He then came to Louisa county and when he first settled in this county Mr. Mellinger rented land, but by close application, careful management and frugal living he acquired the capital in six years to buy eighty acres of prairie. He cultivated and improved this, adding to his holdings from time to time as he was able until, when he retired in 1906, he owned three hundred and twenty acres of land. Since he has been residing in Oakville he has sold two hundred and twenty acres but still owns one hundred acres on section 30, Elliott township, and he also has a fine residence in the village in which he is now living.

In 1855, while living in Orange county, New York, Mr. Mellinger was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Herr, also a native of Germany, and they are the parents of twelve children: Barbara, who married John Kreimer, of Wisconsin; Elizabeth, the wife of R. Linden, of Montana; Henry, who is living in Louisa county; Frank, of Oakville; Margaret, who is deceased; John, residing in Missouri; George E., of Louisa county; Fred, who is deceased; Michael, also living in this county; Rosie, who is at home; and Anna and Emma, both of whom are deceased.

The family are all communicants of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Mellinger is a democrat and for many years served as trustee and school director in his township. Careful consideration of his life but confirms the statement that the only requisite capital necessary for success in America is energy sustained by perseverance and determination of purpose. He came to this country, possessing practically no capital, but he had an inexhaustible supply of diligence, and although he met with obstacles and defeats, discouragements and misfortunes, persistence won the battle, and he is now living retired in full enjoyment of the mental ease and physical comfort provided by his many years of toil.

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#### BERT F. SNYDER.

Youth has proved no obstacle in the pathway to success in the case of Bert F. Snyder who, although but twenty-four years of age, is joint partner in the principal merchandise store in Letts. He is a native son of Iowa, his birth occurring in Muscatine county on the 9th of August, 1887. His parents, John and Phoebe (Griffin) Snyder, were born in Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively, the former of German descent and the latter of Yankee parentage. They were married in Iowa, of which state they were early settlers, having made their home in Louisa county practically ever since 1849. The father followed farm-

ing throughout his active life, but since 1902 he has lived retired, making his home in Letts, owning an attractive dwelling in this town where he and his wife reside. Their family consisted of two sons, the brother of our subject being Charles C., associated with him in business.

At the usual age Bert F. Snyder entered the public schools, passing through consecutive grades until his graduation from high school, being thus equipped with a good education for the practical and responsible duties of life. He was but fifteen years of age when he entered the business world, his first step being in the capacity of clerk in a general merchandise store, having charge and general supervision of the grocery department. He was thus employed for six years and then, on the 4th of March, 1907, he embarked in business for himself in connection with his brother, establishing a merchandise store in Letts. From the first the enterprise has been signally successful. The brothers, still actuated by the enthusiasm and ambition of youth, are exerting their strongest efforts toward the development and growth of the business, which has already become the principal concern of its kind in the town. They possess in large degree those qualities which are essential elements in the attainment of success—industry, perseverance, close application and a capacity for hard work—qualities which are proving salient features in their present prosperity.

Mr. Snyder was married on the 24th of November, 1910, to Miss Lulu May Van Horn, who was born in Louisa county on the 4th of March, 1884, a daughter of Launy and Alice (Coder) Van Horn. Her father, who is now serving as postmaster of Letts, is mentioned on another page in this volume. Mrs. Snyder, who is a high school graduate and also had the benefit of a commercial course, is a young woman of many attractive traits of character and is widely known in the social circles of the community in which she resides.

Mr. Snyder gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but he has never sought nor held public office. He is an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in Triangular Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., of Letts; and Composite Chapter, No. 91, R. A. M., of Columbus Junction. He is a young man of strong public spirit, his interests being thoroughly identified with those of the community, and all measures having to do with its growth and improvement find in him a hearty cooperant. He is succeeding in his business venture, and the degree of prosperity which has already attended his efforts augurs well for a bright future.

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#### SAMUEL NATHANIEL WALKER.

A well cultivated homestead containing one hundred and ninety-six and one-half acres on section 21, Morning Sun township, is the well merited reward of the efforts of Samuel N. Walker, one of Louisa county's capable agriculturists. He was born in Henry county, Iowa, on the 24th of July, 1869, and is a son of C. P. and Ruth E. (Fox) Walker. The father has long been identified

with the agricultural development of this county, but the mother passed away in December, 1890. They were the parents of the following children: Samuel N., our subject; Everna, the wife of Eli Frazelle, of Clark county; Albert, who is deceased; Thomas, who is at home; Leander, also living in this county; Flossie, who married John Russell, of Louisa county; James G., living at home and John, who is deceased.

After the completion of his education which was acquired in the district schools, Samuel N. Walker engaged in agricultural pursuits until he attained his majority. He subsequently went to work on the railroad, continuing to be identified with that occupation for thirteen years. At the end of that time he bought one hundred acres of land, which he cultivated for five years. Then disposing of it he bought his present farm, which is a portion of the old homestead of his father. In addition to the cultivation of his fields Mr. Walker also engages in the raising of cattle and hogs, the returns from which undertakings are proving very satisfactory.

The marriage of Mr. Walker and Miss Hattie M. Moyers was celebrated on the 25th of October, 1893. Mrs. Walker is the daughter of George W. and Rebecca (Pena) Moyers, who were the parents of eight children, namely: Lucy, the wife of G. W. Dotson, of Newport; Pearl M., a resident of Des Moines county; Hattie M., now Mrs. Walker; Cora, the wife of Frank Hamilton, of Newport; Burton, who is living in Des Moines county; Gertie, the twin sister of Burton, and who is deceased; Edward, a resident of Texas; and Halleck, living in Louisa county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Walker were born the following children: Elsie E., George P., Maud M., Albert R., Clifford T., Myrtle Z., Paul Moyers and Samuel Clinton, all of whom reside at home.

The religious affiliation of Mr. Walker is with the Christian denomination, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, his local connection being with Oakville Lodge, No. 139, I. O. O. F., and in politics he is a republican. He has never been an office seeker, but is at present serving as a member of the board of school directors. Success is attending the efforts of Mr. Walker, who is rapidly becoming recognized as one of the representative farmers of his township.

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#### BENJAMIN T. TINDALL.

Benjamin T. Tindall, who engages in general farming and stock-raising, is one of Louisa county's native sons, his natal day being the 23d of January, 1853. The parents, John and Sarah (Marshall) Tindall, were natives of Ohio. In 1849 the father migrated to Iowa, locating in Louisa county, but he soon returned to the Buckeye state, where he remained until 1851. At this time he came back to Louisa county and together with his brother preempted two hundred and forty acres of land. Here he engaged in general farming and stock-

raising, adding to his holdings as he was able until, at the time of his demise, he owned one hundred and sixty-four acres of land. Both parents spent their latter years in this county, the mother passing away at the age of fifty-one and the father at seventy-three years. Unto them were born the following children: Benjamin T., our subject; Mary and Eliza, both of whom are deceased; Nancy, the wife of Laben Saunders, of Poweshiek county; Robert, who is a resident of Louisa county; William, living in Poweshiek county; and Sadie, who became the wife of Lyman Ogier, of Louisa county.

The district schools of this county provided Benjamin T. Tindall with his education, following which he assisted his father with the work of the homestead until he was twenty-four years of age. He subsequently began farming as a renter and for thirteen years operated a threshing machine. In 1907 he bought his present homestead, which contains eighty acres, and here he engages in general farming in connection with which he also raises stock. He has greatly added to the value of his property during the period of his ownership by reason of the fine improvements he has made thereon, and his fields, which are fertile and well tilled, are amply rewarding his labors.

On the 21st of February, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Tindall and Miss Sarah Marshall, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Smith) Marshall, who were the parents of eleven children, as follows: Margareta, who is deceased; Ella, the wife of R. H. Marshall, of Los Angeles, California; Sarah, now Mrs. Tindall; Myra, who married T. A. Hamilton, of Winfield, Iowa; Ida, the wife of C. A. Whitaker, of Post Falls, Idaho; Joshua, who is deceased; Henry and Leander, of Alaska; Frank, of Morning Sun township; Clara, the wife of George Hungate of South Dakota; and Laura, the wife of William Arnold of Morning Sun. Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Tindall were born eight children: Laura and Leroy, who are deceased; Josie, the wife of Frank Owens of New London, Iowa; Jennie, who is deceased; Velma, who is at home; Alice, deceased; and Nellie and Fred at home.

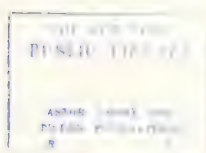
The family affiliate with the Protestant churches. Mr. Tindall is a republican. He does not actively participate in political affairs, however, preferring to give his undivided attention to the direction of his personal interests.

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### WILLIAM LIEBERKNECHT.

The best improved farm in Louisa county stands as a monument to the energy, enterprise and thrift of William Lieberknecht who, through the ready recognition and wise use of his opportunities, has made for himself a place among the most prominent and prosperous agriculturists and business men of this district.

He was born in Grand View township, Louisa county, on the 20th of May, 1854, a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Raebold) Lieberknecht, natives of Germany. The parents were reared and married in the fatherland and in 1841 came to the United States, first locating in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. There they





CATHERINE (RAEBOLD) LIEBERKNECHT



WILLIAM LIEBERKNECHT AND FAMILY





remained for ten years, after which they made their way to Louisa county, journeying by the water route to Muscatine. Upon arriving in this county the father invested in land, being one of the early settlers in this district, and at once began its development and cultivation. It was an unimproved tract when it came into his possession, containing simply a log-house, which remained the home of the family for several years thereafter. In connection with tilling the soil the father also worked at his trade, having learned cobbling in early life, and by strict economy, unfaltering industry and unfailing perseverance along both branches finally attained a position of independence in the business world, becoming the owner of a highly improved and valuable estate of eight hundred acres. He passed away in 1872, being survived by his wife for many years, her death occurring in March, 1901. In their family were nine children, as follows: Jacob and John, both of whom are deceased; Henry; William of this review; Lewis, mentioned on another page of this volume; Benjamin, who has also passed away; Margaret, the deceased wife of Nicholas Lang; Mary, who married Christ Werner and is now deceased; and Mary, who died in infancy.

William Lieberknecht attended the district schools in the acquirement of his education, and when but ten years of age began business upon his own account in a small way earning ten cents as his first money—which he saved, while at various times he also worked for his father, thus continuing until he was twenty-one years old. Upon attaining his majority he bought a tract of land which he operated for a time and then, after selling that tract, purchased another in Washington county, Iowa, upon which he resided for five years. At the end of that time he also disposed of that property and invested in his present farm, consisting of four hundred acres in section 8, Grand View township, Louisa county. He also owns ninety acres of timber land in this township.

A man of progressive ideas and thoroughly up-to-date and modern in his methods, he has introduced upon his home farm every improvement which might contribute to its neatness and fertility, adding all of the conveniences and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century, and today his is the finest improved farm in the county. During all of these years he has also devoted considerable attention to his live-stock interests, being an extensive buyer, raiser, feeder and shipper. He uses all of the produce raised upon his farm for stock-feeding purposes and also buys a large amount of grain annually. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Duroc Jersey hogs for market and is a heavy feeder of cattle, his pastures containing many high grade specimens. The high quality of his stock is recognized throughout this and adjoining counties and his efforts have been potent factors in elevating the standard of stock in this district. His name is not unknown in financial circles in Louisa county, for he has been a stockholder in the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts, Iowa, since its inception and for the past ten years has occupied the office of president of that institution. He is also a member of the Muscatine & Louisa County Telephone Company, and is a man of keen sagacity and sound judgment.

Mr. Lieberknecht was married, on the 15th of January, 1891, to Miss Erminie Pemble, who was born in Wapello, Iowa, on the 27th of August, 1865,

a daughter of James and Marian (Wyman) Pemble, whose biography appears on another page of this volume. The parents, natives of England and Vermont, respectively, were married in Illinois, where they resided upon a farm for a few years, after which they came to Louisa county and located upon a farm here, casting in their lot among the pioneers of this county. Both still survive and make their home upon their place in Jefferson township, owning a section or more of finely improved land. Their family of nine children included the following: Charles, of Peoria, Illinois; Frank, residing in Wapello; Fannie, the wife of Fred Kennedy, now operating the old Pemble homestead; Grant, who passed away at the age of two years; Mrs. Lieberknecht and Justin, twins, the latter a resident of Idaho; Ada, who married Charles Johann, of Wapello; Raymond, of Idaho; and Earl, whose death occurred when he was twenty years of age. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lieberknecht have been born five children, namely: James Max, who was born January 8, 1892, and William Floyd, born September 15, 1893, both of whom are students of high school and still reside at home; Marian, born March 30, 1896, now attending high school; Mildred, born May 23, 1898, at home; and Dorothy, born June 10, 1900, also under the parental roof.

The family all attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members, and politically Mr. Lieberknecht gives his support to the republican party. He has never sought nor desired office for himself, however, as the conduct of his personal business affairs has demanded his entire time and attention. An analyzation of his life work shows that his success is not the result of unusual characteristics, but has come rather from his close application and ready utilization of opportunities such as are met with in the life of almost every individual. He has known when, where and how to put forth his best energies, and the careful directing of his efforts along the lines where mature judgment has led the way has brought to him the success which he now enjoys. He is held in the highest esteem and regard by his fellowmen, not merely for the degree of prosperity which he has attained, but also for the high principles which have ever governed his actions, whether in business or private life.

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#### AUGUST KORN, JR.

The late August Korn, Jr., who was engaged in the cultivation of his farm of two hundred acres at the time of his demise, was born in Wapello, Iowa, on the 25th of April, 1858, and was a son of August and Katherine Korn, both natives of Germany. They emigrated from the fatherland to the United States, locating in Louisa county during pioneer days. Here the father passed away but the mother still survives at the age of eighty-three and makes her home in Wapello. Eight children were born of this union, all but one of whom are deceased.

August Korn, Jr., was reared to agricultural pursuits, acquiring his education in the common schools of his native county. After laying aside his text-

books he devoted his entire attention to his chosen vocation, which he had decided should be that of a farmer, and at the time of his death owned two hundred acres of well improved and thoroughly cultivated land in section 31, Jefferson township.

In Louisa county occurred the marriage of Mr. Korn and Miss Lydia F., Brendel, also a native of this county. Her parents, J. G. and Christiana Brendel, were born in Germany and emigrated to the United States many years ago, being among the very early settlers of Louisa county, Iowa, where they continued to reside until they passed away.

Ten children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Korn, the order of their birth being as follows: Clara F., who is the wife of Edward Hayes, of Toolsboro, Iowa; Lillie F., who is living on the homestead; Alma M.; John A., who is still at home and assisting his sister Lillie in the management of the home farm; Charles E., who is attending college at Des Moines; Esther R., attending the high school at Wapello; Anna M., Freida O., and August and Fannie, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Korn passed away on the 19th of October, 1905, and his wife on the 1st of December, 1907. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the German Methodist Episcopal church, to which his family also belong. He was highly regarded in the community where he resided and was known as one of the successful and substantial agriculturists of Jefferson township.

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#### F. H. HESSE.

Few men are more widely known in business circles of this locality than F. H. Hesse who, as senior partner of the firm of Hesse & Patterson, is connected with one of the most important enterprises of Wapello and the largest concern of its kind in Louisa county. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Butler county on the 1st of November, 1873. His parents, Frank and Lucy (Hill) Hesse, born in Germany and Wisconsin respectively, are now residents of Eugene, Oregon. Their family of five children include the following: F. H., of this review; George F., of Eugene, Oregon; John L., of Clarksville, Iowa; Clyde R., residing at Des Moines; and Cora E., who died in infancy.

The period of his boyhood and youth was passed by F. H. Hesse in the acquirement of an education, attending the public schools of his native county and passing through consecutive grades until his graduation from high school. Later he had the benefit of a commercial course which he pursued in the Cedar Rapids Business College, after which he entered the business world, his initial step being in connection with the hardware business in Clarksville in partnership with his father. He was then twenty-one years of age and these relations between father and son continued until 1907, when the latter came to Wapello and with F. L. Patterson purchased the business of the Otto Hard-

ware Company. They are now conducting this enterprise under the firm style of Hesse & Patterson, and under their direction the business is constantly increasing in size and importance. Something of the scope of their trade is indicated by the fact that today theirs is the largest enterprise of this kind in the county, their cash sales for 1910 amounting to eighteen thousand dollars. Their store and warehouse is a fine structure, twenty-six by one hundred and fifty feet, and they also conduct a tin shop in connection with their general hardware trade. They carry an excellent line of stoves including the Round Oak, Quick Meals, Fuller-Warren, Cutler-Proctor, Coles Hot Blast, Majestic, Keen-Kutler, Diamond Edge, O. V. B. and Pritzloff, and in fact all of their stock is of standard make, the store purchasing its goods from leading manufacturers. The safe, conservative policy which the partners have inaugurated commends itself to the judgment of all and has secured to the company a patronage which makes the volume of trade of great importance and magnitude. The prosperity of the company is due, in large measure, to the executive ability and business capacity of its senior member, who has been watchful of all the details of the business and of all indications pointing toward prosperity, and is numbered among the progressive business men of Wapello.

In Clarksville, Iowa, Mr. Hesse was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Dale Patterson, the second in order of birth in a family of three children born unto Francis and Mary (Wamsley) Patterson. The others are: Edward, of Greene, Iowa; and Francis Lloyd, the junior partner of the firm of Hesse & Patterson. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hesse have been born two children: Dorothy, eleven years of age; and Robert Francis, who is four years old.

The religious faith of Mr. Hesse is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, while his fraternal relations are with the Masons. He gives his political support to the republican party, although he has never had any desire for public office. He has been careful in business affairs, earnest in his work, loyal to his friends and true to his convictions, and he now occupies a prominent place among the most substantial and representative citizens of Louisa county.

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### JOHN H. MARTIN.

John H. Martin, an enterprising and energetic young agriculturist of Marshall township, devotes his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising with excellent results. He was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 1st of July, 1882, and is a son of Elizabeth Martin. His youthful days were spent in the home of his grandparents, John T. and Catherine Martin, both of whom are now deceased.

After attaining his majority he purchased a farm of one hundred and six acres in Marshall township and has since brought the property under a high state of cultivation and improvement. He now operates three hundred and

fifty acres of land in Marshall township and in connection with the tilling of the soil makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle, hogs and horses, this branch of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. His mother still makes her home with him. In politics he is a stanch republican but has not sought office as a reward for his party fealty. Mr. Martin has resided in Louisa county from his birth to the present time and has an extensive circle of friends here.

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### J. H. WILSON.

One of Louisa county's retired agriculturists now living in Morning Sun, is J. H. Wilson, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 1st of January, 1831. His parents, John and Isabella (McClure) Wilson, were both natives of South Carolina, from which state they removed to Ohio in the pioneer days. They continued to reside there until 1839, when they came to Iowa, locating in Louisa county, where the father entered government land, upon which he erected a log cabin. Here the parents spent the remainder of their days, the father engaging in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were the parents of ten children, three of whom are living.

J. H. Wilson was a lad of only eight years when his parents left Ohio, so that the greater portion of his boyhood and youth were spent in Iowa, in whose common schools he acquired his education. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one at which time his father presented him with a farm, upon which he immediately located, engaging in its cultivation for nine years. In 1862 he rented his land and, taking an ox team started across the prairies to Oregon, going by way of California, where he stopped for a short time. When he reached the coast he engaged in freighting goods across the mountains, for which purpose he was compelled to use ten yoke of oxen on each wagon, owing to the difficulties encountered in getting over the steep passes with a heavy load. He remained on the Pacific coast for three years, then sold his teams and returned to Iowa, once more locating on his farm in Louisa county. For ten years thereafter he engaged in agricultural pursuits, following which he sold his farm and rented a hotel in Muscatine, which he conducted for four years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Morning Sun, where he purchased the property he has ever since occupied. He owns seven pieces of residence property in this town, realizing therefrom a very comfortable income.

On the 3d of March, 1869, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Adeline McClurkin, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Thomas and Julia Ann (Kline) McClurkin, natives of Indiana. They came to Iowa during pioneer days, locating in this county, where the father passed away in 1889. The mother, however, is still living at the venerable age of ninety-one years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Wilson, who is a republican, has served as justice of the peace, in addition to which he has held several of the minor township offices. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson manifest their religious belief through their affiliation with the Presbyterian church, of which they have long been members. In the evening of life they are permitted to enjoy the ease and comfort provided by an income which is the result of the capably directed endeavors of their youth.

### LEONARD BANTLE.

Leonard Bantle, an enterprising, progressive and prosperous resident of Oakville, has built up an extensive trade as a grocery merchant and also conducts a meat market. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 10th of September, 1862, his parents being John and Betty Ann (Westfall) Bantle, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Iowa. John Bantle, who enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil war, lost his life on the field of battle. His wife passed away two years later, when our subject was but seven years of age.

Leonard Bantle was reared to manhood by an uncle, Richard Bantle, of Mercer county, Illinois, where he attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. When twenty-one years of age he came to Iowa and took charge of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Des Moines county. The property had been left him by his father and was located in Huron township, just south of Louisa county. To the operation of that place he devoted his time and energies for about fifteen years and on the expiration of that period came to Oakville, here embarking in business as the proprietor of a meat market. Subsequently he added a supply of groceries and now deals extensively in commodities of that character, also enjoying quite a large trade as a dealer in meats. Seizing the opportunity for profitable investment, he recently purchased six lots in the new addition to Oakville and on one of them is now erecting a handsome new residence for his family. He well merits the proud American title of a self-made man, his prosperity being directly attributable to his own efforts.

Mr. Bantle has been married three times. He first wedded Miss Nettie Harris, a daughter of Isaac Harris, by whom he had one daughter, Vada, who is now the wife of Roy Fisher and resides near Wapello. Vada was born on the 17th of September, 1884, and six weeks later the mother passed away. In 1885 Mr. Bantle married Miss Helma Nyberg, a native of Illinois, who died in March, 1903, leaving two sons and a daughter, namely: John Harland, whose birth occurred in 1888 and who passed away in the spring of 1910; Orville Leonard, who was born in 1890 and is at home; and Ida Blanche, also at home. On the 27th of December, 1905, Mr. Bantle was again married, his third union being with Mrs. Mary Jacoby, the widow of Reuben Jacoby. The present Mrs. Bantle had three children by her first husband, as follows: Hetty, the wife of H. G.



Wallace, of Carthage, Illinois; Asa, who is a railway engineer, with headquarters in Chicago; and Freddy, who resides at home with his parents and is of great assistance to his stepfather in the conduct of the grocery and meat market.

In politics Mr. Bantle is an independent republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church. He was formerly also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. In all of his business dealings he is straightforward and reliable and enjoys to the fullest extent the confidence and good will of those who know him.

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#### D. W. V. HERRICK.

The cultivation of a two hundred and twenty acre farm in Wapello township engages the entire attention of D. W. V. Herrick, who was born in Louisa county on the 13th of April, 1864. He is a son of H. S. and Delilah (Herkins) Herrick, unto whom were born fourteen children: Hulda, the wife of P. T. Benson, of Des Moines; Henrietta, who married Andrew Davis, of Oklahoma; Catharine, the wife of E. C. Friend, of Wapello; Emeline, who married E. T. Alstot, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Rose, the wife of W. N. Kettlestrings, of Oak Park, Illinois; Mary, the wife of Eugene Parce, of South Dakota; Hannah, who married William Owens, also of South Dakota; Mercy, the wife of C. F. Linton, of Missouri; Lydia, who became the wife of James Parsons, of New London, Iowa; D. W. V., our subject; Zilpha, the wife of Harry Parsons, of Kansas; and Joan, the wife of John W. Jarvis, of Morning Sun; the sixth and seventh in order of birth both died in infancy.

D. W. V. Herrick, who has spent his entire life on a farm, was educated in the district schools of Louisa county. In 1888 he purchased eighty acres of land, which formed the nucleus of his present homestead, adding to this at divers times as he was able until he has acquired two hundred and twenty acres, which includes the old homestead on which he was born. Here he engages in general farming and stock-raising, both of which under his capable and intelligent direction have proven very remunerative.

On the 12th of September, 1894, Mr. Herrick was united in marriage to Miss Della Owens, a daughter of John and Sarah (Foster) Owens, who were the parents of ten children, those who are living being as follows: Edwin, who is a resident of Clearfield, Iowa; Lola, who married Harry Reece, of Winfield, Iowa; Della, now Mrs. Herrick; Burtus, of Winfield, Iowa; Jennie, who married John Campbell, of Oakville, this state; Miller, of Winfield, Iowa; Earl, who is a resident of the same place; Clyde of Louisa county; and Nellie, the wife of Bert Moyers, also of this county. The first in order of birth died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Herrick have become the parents of one son and three daughters, the two youngest, twins. The order of their birth is as follows: Chester M., who is at home; Beulah Alma, Myrtle Sarah and Marie Delilah.

The family attend the Presbyterian church, of which they are members, while fraternally Mr. Herrick is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he has taken three degrees in the Masonic order. In politics he has always given his support to the candidates of the democratic party, and for one term he served as supervisor; he has also been school director. Resolution and perseverance have been the main factors in the success which has attended the efforts of Mr. Herrick, whose homestead, located on sections 24, 25 and 36, is one of the valuable properties of the county.

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### W. S. KREMER.

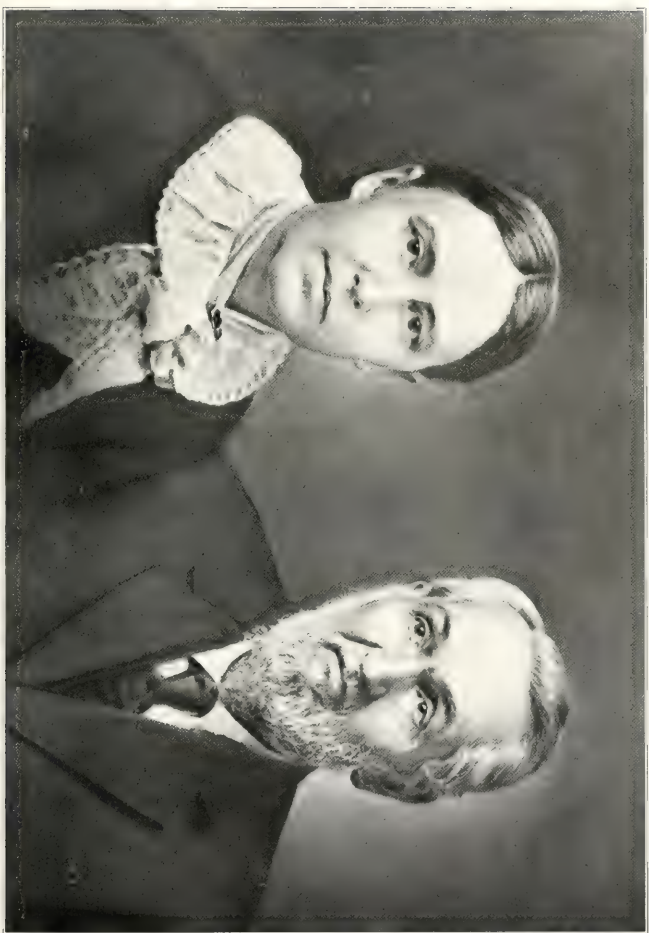
Few men have uninterruptedly served in public office for half a century but it has been the destiny of W. S. Kremer, of Wapello, to make a distinctive record and for fifty-four years past he has performed the duties of county surveyor of Louisa county. He has also occupied other public positions of responsibility and throughout his entire life his labors have been so wisely and prudently directed that he has gained and retained the respect and esteem of the people of the county regardless of their political affiliation.

He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Wilkes-Barre, January 1, 1833, a son of Jacob and Mary (Sleppy) Kremer, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father died at the age of sixty-six and the mother at the age of eighty-two years. There were five children in their family, namely: W. S.; Isabel, who married G. L. Dunn, of Keithsburg, Illinois, and is now deceased; Sarah, who became the wife of Joseph Venable, of Keithsburg, and is also deceased; Amanda, the deceased wife of Thomas Arundell, of Oxnard, California; and Wesley P., who is a resident of Rutherford, New Jersey.

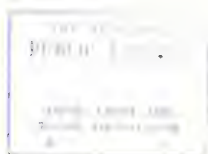
W. S. Kremer's early educational advantages were limited, but he attended Howe's Academy at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for two terms. At the age of twenty-one he began teaching school and continued in that vocation for three years, at the end of which time he was elected county surveyor of Louisa county, an office which he has filled for some years, discharging his duties so creditably that he has never been seriously criticised. He also served with general acceptance as county treasurer for ten years; was for many years a member of the school board; and has also been a member of the city council and mayor of Wapello.

On the 14th day of May, 1859, Mr. Kremer was married to Miss Elizabeth Whicher, a daughter of Francis and Susan (Gregory) Whicher. Seven children came to bless this union, namely: Clarence and Dale, both of whom are living in Louisa county; Guy, who makes his home at Denver, Colorado; Kate, who resides at home; Stella, who became the wife of H. Limbocker, of Louisa county; and Pearl and Glenn, both of whom are at home. The mother of this family died January 31, 1890.





MR. AND MRS. W. N. KREMER



Mr. Kremer cast his first vote in 1856 for John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton as candidates for president and vice president of the United States on the republican ticket and during the years that have since passed has seen no reason to change his political affiliation. He is an advocate of obedience to the law and the well established usages of society and by his example of industry, patience and self-control has influenced many to lead lives of honor and usefulness. He has always given freely of his time, money and talents toward the promotion of worthy objects and he is recognized as a representative of the model American citizen. The family attend the Methodist church.

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### JOSEPH W. SWAN.

Joseph W. Swan, who for more than twenty years has been engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Morning Sun township, was born in the house in which he now lives on the 17th of August, 1850. He is a son of James McConnell, commonly known as "Mack," and Nancy A. (Rouse) Swan. The father, who was born in Pennsylvania on the 9th of April, 1815, migrated to Iowa in his early manhood, locating on one hundred and sixty acres of government land which he preempted in Morning Sun township, Louisa county, the deed for his land being signed by President James K. Polk.

The country was very sparsely settled at that time and upon Mr. and Mrs. Swan devolved all of the hardships which usually fall to the lot of pioneers. Their nearest trading post was Flint, which was twenty miles away, and the prairie wolves were so prevalent at that time that often they approached the wagon so closely that it was possible to strike them with a whip. Mr. Swan, who improved his homestead as he was able, felled all of the trees from which he constructed his residence, which is the one now occupied by his son, Joseph W. He placed his land under cultivation as rapidly as possible and engaged in general farming and stock-raising until his death, which occurred on the 27th of March, 1867, at the age of fifty-two years. He was laid to rest in Elmwood cemetery, at Morning Sun.

Mrs. Swan, who was born in the 20th of January, 1819, died on the 14th of November, 1875. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Swan were born ten children, namely: Rachel, the wife of J. B. Linney, of Linn county, Kansas; John A., who is deceased; Eliza Jane, who married William Buffington, of Wapello; Ellen C., the wife of E. P. Green, of Taylor county, Iowa; Martha, the wife of John C. Leeds, of Oklahoma; J. W., our subject; Wrilla, the deceased wife of J. Delong, of Morning Sun; Laura Bell, the wife of George Horn, of Fairfield, Iowa; and Mary and Arabella, both of whom died in infancy.

In the acquirement of his education Joseph W. Swan attended the district schools until such time as he had obtained sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to engage in his vocation, which he had decided should be that of farming. At the age of twenty-one years he rented the homestead,

which he cultivated for two years. At the expiration of that period, however, owing to the state of his health, he was compelled to withdraw from agricultural pursuits. Coming to Morning Sun he became associated with S. T. McIntire in the implement business. He continued to be identified with this activity for ten years, and in 1889 he returned to the old homestead where he has ever since engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He is an enterprising man of progressive ideas and has met with success in his undertakings, especially in the cultivation of his land, one hundred and fifteen acres of which he is now operating. Last year he had twenty acres of the finest corn he has ever raised, the yield being one hundred and five bushels to the acre. Mr. Swan has always taken great pride in his stock, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs.

On the 29th of June, 1871, Mr. Swan was united in marriage to Miss Diana Peasley, a daughter of S. N. and Sarah Ann (Savage) Peasley, who were natives of Athens county, Ohio, in which state her mother died. In 1858 her father came to Iowa, traveling by wagon, and located in Louisa county. His death occurred in Morning Sun in February, 1911. To Mr. and Mrs. Peasley were born three children, as follows: Ann Eliza, the widow of John A. Swan, of Morning Sun; Diana, now Mrs. Joseph W. Swan; and William, who is a resident of Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Swan have seven children five sons and two daughters, in order of birth as follows: Iona, the wife of P. A. Yohe, of Morning Sun; Warren A., who is a resident of Pottawattomie county, Iowa; Wallace, who is living in Oskaloosa; Leah, who became the wife of Charles Peterson, of Des Moines; Walter, who is a resident of Morning Sun; Guy, who is at home; and Clinton, who is attending business college at Burlington.

The family worship in the First Presbyterian church of Morning Sun, of which James McConnell Swan was one of the organizers. Mr. Swan, who has always taken a very active and helpful interest in all political affairs, gives his support to the republican party. He is now county constable, and during the period of his residence in Morning Sun served in the capacity of marshal, constable and street commissioner, in all of which offices he discharged his duties in a manner highly creditable to both himself and his constituency. Mr. Swan is one of the representative citizens of Morning Sun township, in the development of which his family has been actively engaged for over sixty years.

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### HARVEY E. ORR.

Starting in life under highly favorable circumstances as to parentage and surroundings Harvey E. Orr, of Columbus City, has ably discharged his responsibilities and today ranks among the leading men of Louisa county. He and his family occupy a beautiful residence which is provided with all desirable conveniences and he is also the owner of a fine farm in this part of the county

which yields generous annual returns. He is a native of Washington county, Iowa, born June 27, 1853, a son of Francis G. and Elizabeth (Johnston) Orr.

The family has been traced back in America for a number of generations, the great-grandfather on the paternal side, Thomas Orr, having been one of the pioneers of Washington county, Tennessee. There his son William, the grandfather of our subject, was born. William Orr was reared in Washington county and when a young man went to Blount county, Tennessee, where he married Miss Mary Walker whose father, John Walker, served as a recruiting officer in the Revolutionary war. After the colonies gained their independence he settled in the valley of the Susquehanna, in Pennsylvania, but about the year 1800 emigrated to Tennessee. He was a farmer by occupation and a member of the Seceder Presbyterian church. He died at the age of eighty years.

To William and Mary Orr were born the following children, namely: Jane F., now deceased; John W., who died at Conesville, Iowa, in 1886, at the age of seventy-six years; Josiah J., a farmer of Union township, Louisa county; Francis G., the father of our subject; Robert H., who also engaged in farming in Union township; Mary, who died in infancy; Lucinda Adeline, who married Joseph Johnston, of Columbus City; William W., a farmer of Union township; Esther Ann, the wife of James H. Johnston, of Columbus township; and Nancy Jane, who became the wife of David C. Hammel, of Washington, Iowa. Jane F., the eldest of these children, was twice married. Her first husband was Thomas J. Johnson, of Madison county, Alabama, and her second husband was John F. McConnell. She died in Louisa county at the age of eighty years.

At the age of four years Francis G. Orr removed with his parents to Monroe county, Tennessee, where the family lived for about two years, then taking up their residence in McMinn county, Tennessee. He continued with his parents until he arrived at the age of twenty-one years. In 1846 he came to Columbus City township, Louisa county, but remained only a short time. He purchased eighty acres of land near Crawfordsville, Washington county, Iowa, upon which he took up his residence in the fall of 1848.

In 1852 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth J. Johnston and two years later was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife and infant son. This was the greatest sorrow of his life and one from which he never fully recovered. A short time after the death of his wife he disposed of his property in Washington county and returned to Louisa county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres on section 4, Union township. He made his home with his brother, W. W. Orr, until after the marriage of his son and then took up his residence with the latter. He died in 1896. He was a highly successful farmer and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich land in Union township upon which he built a handsome farm residence and other substantial buildings in keeping with the home. He was a member of the Associated Presbyterian church of Columbus City, in which he served as ruling elder for many years. In politics he was a republican.

Harvey E. Orr was reared on the home farm and attended school in the winter, assisting in the work of the fields in the spring and summer. At the

age of twenty-five years he took his father's place in the management of the homestead and upon the death of the father inherited the estate. He continued to live at the old home until 1904 when he removed with his family to Columbus City. He rented the home farm for four years and then disposed of it, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres in Columbus City township, which he still owns. His property in Columbus City covers an entire block of eight lots and the residence is one of the most attractive in the city.

On October 2, 1878, Mr. Orr was married to Miss Mahala Duncan and to this union three children were born, two of whom are now living: Gary, who makes his home in Texas; and Ira, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The mother of these children died February 23, 1885, at the age of twenty-seven years, and Mr. Orr was married April 21, 1887, to Miss Mary E. Duncan, his second wife being a daughter of James A. and Melinda J. Duncan. Mr. and Mrs. Orr have become the parents of five children, namely: Lulu, who resides at home; Eva, deceased; and Helen, Harold and Edith, all of whom are at home. Mrs. Orr was the sixth in order of birth in a family of nine children, the others being: Joseph, deceased; Margaret A., the widow of W. J. Grimes, of Allerton, Iowa; Nancy J., the widow of Robert O. Johnson, of Garnett, Kansas; William, who died in infancy; Emma F., the wife of Isaac A. Endsby, of Columbus Junction; Flora, the widow of W. D. Pyles, of Columbus Junction; Lou, who married W. E. Murdock, of Columbus Junction; and Charles R., also of Columbus Junction.

Mr. Orr votes in support of the republican party, and while he has never desired to hold public office he takes an active interest in the success of the party and lends his assistance in promoting the claims of its candidates. A native son of Iowa, his interest has largely centered in this state and few men can claim a more intimate knowledge of its resources and possibilities. By loyalty to principle and a spirit of progressiveness which have ever been his salient characteristics he has inspired many others to the attainment of higher ideals and has been a potent influence in the upbuilding of the community. His religious views are indicated by membership in the United Presbyterian church to which, as to all worthy objects, he is a liberal contributor.

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#### ABE PARSONS.

Among the well known farmers and stockmen of Jefferson township is Abe Parsons, who was born in Louisa county on the 2d of October, 1861, and is a son of the late T. M. and Mary (Hale) Parsons. The father was a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. He came to Iowa in 1835, and she in 1840. They located upon a farm in this county, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father passing away on the 2d of May, 1902, and the mother on the 23d of October, 1906. Six children were born to them, five of whom are still surviving.

Abe Parsons acquired a common-school education, remaining a member of the paternal household until he attained his majority. He early elected to follow agricultural pursuits, for which he had been fitted by his training from childhood, and when he left home he purchased a farm and engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of feeding stock for the market.

In 1908 Mr. Parsons was united in marriage to Mrs. Jessie L. (Hook) Parsons, the widow of the late D. D. Parsons. She was also a native of Louisa county, her natal day being the 26th of August, 1861. Her parents, G. W. and Emily B. (Trask) Hook, were natives of Virginia and Illinois respectively. The parents were among the pioneer settlers of this county and extensive land-owners. The father passed away on the 13th of November, 1895, and the mother on the 31st of January, 1910, at the age of seventy-three years. Unto them were born nine children, eight of whom are still living. By her first marriage Mrs. Parsons had three children: Talmar, who was born on the 6th of July, 1882, and is the wife of John Deihl, a banker, of Wapello; Mary Pearl, who was born on the 23d of January, 1885, and became the wife of R. R. Hunt; and Dean H., who was born on the 7th of June, 1895, and is now attending school at Wapello.

Mr. and Mrs. Parsons attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she is a member, while fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic order, being a member of Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M. Mrs. Parsons is a member of the Eastern Star of Wapello, No. 257. Mr. Parsons has always voted the democratic ticket and has been the successful candidate of his party for the office of township trustee. He has met with a moderate degree of success in his business and he and his wife now own two hundred and ninety acres of land on sections 5, 14, and 23, Jefferson township, in addition to which he has four hundred and eighty acres of land in Clark county, Kansas. He is one of the substantial farmers of Jefferson township, where he has resided all his life and has many friends by whom he is highly regarded.

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#### WILLIAM H. DARROW, M. D.

Obstacles which appear unsurmountable to some persons to others serve merely as incentives, and by overcoming difficulties they rise to heights of character and usefulness which the great majority of the human race scarcely realize. Such is the epitome of the life of Dr. William H. Darrow, now deceased, who for many years was a prominent physician of Columbus Junction. Beginning in a most humble capacity in a drug store he earned the money to pay his expenses at college, thus laying a foundation for future success. He was a valiant soldier, a patriotic citizen, a true friend to the needy or unfortunate, and in all the responsibilities of life he attempted to ever perform his duty. He was born in Summit county, Ohio, August 17, 1842, a son of George and Harriet Walker Darrow. Mr. Darrow, Sr., came with his family to Louisa county,



Iowa, in 1845 and took up his residence at Columbus City, where he engaged in the blacksmith's trade. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the call of President Lincoln and enlisted in an Iowa regiment, losing his life in defense of his country. The mother is also deceased.

William H. Darrow was a member of a family of fourteen children and, being obliged in his boyhood to assist in providing for the support of his brothers and sisters, entered the drug store of Clark & Colton at Columbus City as a clerk. He was unusually industrious and, having decided to devote his life to the practice of medicine, matriculated in the medical college of Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1859. In 1861, soon after the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted as a private in the Fifth Iowa Volunteers, and later was promoted as hospital steward and assistant surgeon. He was present at the siege of Vicksburg and many of the principal battles of the Army of the West, among which may be named Champion's Hill, Missionary Ridge, Jackson, Corinth, Fort Pillow, New Madrid, Iuka and Tiptonville. He was wounded in the scalp and in the left arm at the battle of Champion's Hill, but recovered from these injuries and resumed his position with his company, being honorably mustered out after wearing the uniform of the blue for three years and nine months. Upon laying aside the accoutrements of war he returned to Columbus City and engaged in the practice of medicine, later moving to Cairo, and in 1870 to Columbus Junction, where he continued during the remainder of his life, becoming known as one of the most successful practitioners in Louisa county.

On the 20th of November, 1871, in this county, Dr. Darrow was united in marriage to Miss Emily F. Weaver, a daughter of Erastus and Mary Elizabeth (Marshall) Weaver, the former of whom was born at Providence, Rhode Island, and the latter near Xenia, Ohio. Mr. Weaver arrived in Louisa county in 1846 and was here married to Mary Elizabeth Marshall, who was one of the noblest women Louisa county has known. Mr. Weaver also served for the Union upon southern battlefields during the Civil war and was known as one of the most respected citizens of this section. There were nine children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Weaver: Mary Elizabeth, who married Reese Sellers; Laura and Annie, both of whom died in infancy; Emily F., who married Dr. William H. Darrow; Lucy, the wife of E. S. Briggs, of Louisa county; Clara, who resides at Morning Sun and is the wife of Dr. C. B. Allen; H. O., now a leading attorney of Wapello and collector of United States internal revenue of the fourth district of Iowa; Henrietta, the wife of August Salmon, of Columbus Junction; and Alice, who died in infancy. A more extended record of Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Weaver may be found in the sketch of H. O. Weaver elsewhere in this work.

Dr. and Mrs. Darrow became the parents of one son, John D., who was born December 31, 1877, and was given good educational advantages, being a graduate of the State University at Iowa City. In 1900 he was married to Miss Effie Klotz, a native of Louisa county, and they have two children: Helen F., born August 5, 1909; and William H., born June 13, 1911. Mr. Darrow gives his support to the republican party and is now serving very acceptably as city



assessor. Socially he is connected with Liberty Lodge, No. 22, Knights of Pythias, of Columbus Junction, and he has filled all the chairs in this organization.

Dr. Darrow died July 15, 1894. His demise was regarded as a distinct personal loss by the people of Columbus Junction and vicinity and the numerous expressions of condolence gave evidence of the respect in which he was held by young and old wherever he was known. At the time of his death he was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas and also of valuable property in Columbus Junction. In politics he was an adherent of the republican party and fraternally he was a valued member of the Masonic order. His body reposes in Indian Creek cemetery. Although seventeen years have passed since he was called from earthly scenes his memory is cherished as one who lived, not for himself alone, but very largely that he might contribute to the comfort and happiness of others. "The world is better for his having passed this way." Mrs. Darrow and her son still occupy the family residence at Columbus Junction, which is endeared to them by many associations. She is a lady of most attractive qualities of mind and character and can claim a host of friends in Louisa county.

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#### HENRY F. MOHLIE.

Henry F. Mohlie, who is devoting a large part of his time and attention to the breeding and raising of thoroughbred horses, was born in Louisa county on the 10th of February, 1870. He is of German extraction, being the eldest son of Chris and Dora (Deppey) Mohlie, who were natives of the fatherland. The father was brought to this country by his parents when a babe of six months and here he was reared and educated. When he first located in Louisa county he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Marshall township, in the operation of which he engaged for some time. He has been twice married and by his first union there were born five children: Henry, our subject; Emma, who married George Fore, of Wapello; Minnie, who is deceased; Mary, the wife of Chris Weigers, of Clay Center, Kansas; and Fred, who is a resident of Louisa county. After the demise of his first wife Mr. Mohlie married Miss Susan Glanders, and they have a son and a daughter, Wesley, who is a resident of Clay Center, Kansas; and Andina, who married Charles Kline, also of Clay Center.

The boyhood and youth of Henry F. Mohlie were spent under the parental roof, his education being obtained in the schools of the district where they lived. At the age of twenty-eight he began life for himself as an agriculturist. For several years he engaged in farming on rented land in various parts of the state. In 1906 he rented one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he is now residing, and here he engages in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of horses.

On the 14th of December, 1868, Mr. Mohlie was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jacobs, a daughter of John and Mary (Morris) Jacobs, in whose family were six children, the order of their birth being as follows: David, who is a resident of Fairfield, Iowa; Thomas, living in Hope, North Dakota; Ellen, who is the widow of James Biggs, of Columbus City, Iowa; Elizabeth, deceased; Mary, now Mrs. Mohlie; and Robert, who is living in Paris, Missouri.

The church relationship of Mr. and Mrs. Mohlie is with the Methodist Episcopal denomination and he votes with the republican party. He is meeting with good success in his ventures and bids fair to become one of the representative stockmen of Wapello township.

### JOSEPH REUTINGER.

From the province of Baden, Germany, have come at various times many ambitious young men who sought and found in America opportunities denied them in the over-populated districts of the old world. Joseph Reutinger, who is well known as a farmer of Louisa county, was born in Baden, March 5, 1852, and is a son of Frank J. and Lamberta (Grieser) Reutinger, both of whom died in the old country. They were the parents of five children, namely: Mary, who came to this country and married George Fath, of Louisa county, but is now deceased; Louisa, who lives in Germany; Joseph; Carl, a resident of Chicago; and Stephania, who is also deceased.

Joseph Reutinger possessed advantages of education in the public schools of his native land and continued with his parents until seventeen years of age. Actuated by a desire to improve his condition under the most favorable circumstances, he crossed the ocean in 1869 and came to Louisa county, Iowa, where he has since made his home. He rented forty acres of land for three years and then bought one hundred and fifty-five acres, which he cultivated very successfully, so that after four years of well applied labor he was enabled to purchase ninety acres additional. He has resided at his present location since 1883 and has made many improvements in the buildings, fences and drainage, also in setting out shade and ornamental trees and in providing the family residence with modern conveniences. As a general farmer and stock-raiser he takes rank among the successful men of his part of the county and each year witnesses an increase in his prosperity.

On the 21st of May, 1879, Mr. Reutinger was married to Miss Mary Keck, a daughter of John Philip and Christina (Tuffensammer) Keck. There were eight children in the Keck family, four of whom are now living, namely: Mary; Amelia, who married Edward Tellman, of Wapello; Louisa, now Mrs. H. A. Weber, of Wapello; and Flora, the wife of W. E. Fielman, of Monmouth, Illinois. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reutinger: Amelia, the wife of August Berkhoff, of Wapello; Josephine, also of Wapello; Lisetta, who





MRS. JOSEPH REUTINGER



JOSEPH REUTINGER



married Edward Cotter, of Mount Pleasant; and Philip, Della and Charles, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Reutinger is a sincere believer in the authority and inspiration of the Bible and is a consistent member of the Methodist church. In politics he adheres to the republican party, whose principles of protection he heartily indorses. He has never aspired to public office, but has concentrated his energies upon his chosen vocation and as a result is the owner of one of the highly attractive farms of this section, the general appearance of the place indicating that he understands his business in every detail. He has been actuated by an abiding spirit of loyalty to his adopted country and it is doubtful whether Louisa county can claim a more worthy or patriotic citizen than Joseph Reutinger. In 1907 he and his two daughters, Josephine and Lisetta, went to Europe to visit his old home, where he found two sisters and other relatives besides schoolmates and companions of his younger years. They visited many points of interest and while Mr. Reutinger enjoyed his trip he was glad to return to America, the land of liberty.

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### LEVI STEPHEN.

Although almost a quarter of a century has passed since the death of Levi Stephen, of Louisa county, his name is still held in loving remembrance by all with whom he was associated and his good works continue to bear abundant harvest. Like many of the most substantial citizens of Iowa, he was a native of Ohio, born in Preble county, January 1, 1812. His father, Richard Stephen, was of Welsh descent and his mother, whose maiden name was Lettie Bailey, was of Irish extraction and was born in Pennsylvania.

Levi Stephen received his early education in the Buckeye state and as he grew to manhood became well acquainted with the various operations of agriculture and stock-raising. In 1836, being then twenty-four years of age, he started westward in search of a home and arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Port Louisa township. He was a very active and industrious man and rapidly improved his place, bringing it to a high state of cultivation. As the years passed he acquired more land and became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres, being the owner of several tracts of land in Kansas. He gained recognition as one of the highly prosperous and successful farmers of the county and there were few who took a greater interest in their work or produced more satisfactory results.

On the 22d of December, 1841, Mr. Stephen was married to Miss Jane Dickinson, a native of Steuben county, New York, born February 11, 1815. She was the youngest daughter of David and Anna (Gilbert) Dickinson, who were both born in Massachusetts, the father being of Scotch and the mother of English descent. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen: Carrie, who became the wife of John M. Creswell, of Port Louisa township; Anna L., who



died at the age of seventeen years; Josephine, at home; John F., who operates the home farm; Nannie J., who lives at home and has been engaged in teaching school in Louisa county; and Jessie S., who is now the wife of Charles Blaul, a wholesale grocer of Burlington. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen also reared William Hubbard, whom they received into their family when he was two and one-half years of age. He continued a member of their household until he reached manhood, always being given the same care and attention and possessing the same advantages of training as their own children.

Politically Mr. Stephen gave his support to the republican party and was an earnest adherent of its principles. He served as township trustee for thirty years and also as a member of the board of county supervisors for several terms. He was frequently urged to become a candidate for other offices but declined to have his name presented, as the responsibilities of a large farm and a growing family closely demanded his attention. He resigned from the office of township treasurer one year before his death, which occurred September 6, 1887, when he was seventy-five years of age, as the result of an accident. His widow continued to reside at the old home until she too passed away July 16, 1905.

The farm which Mr. Stephen owned is still in the possession of his children and John F., Josephine and Nannie still live on the old homestead, which is endeared to them by many years of association and which is one of the most attractive places of its size in the township. The children are members of the United Presbyterian church, as were their parents, and are active workers in behalf of the church and of all worthy causes. In early days the Stephen home was always open to the ministers who came to preach to the pioneers. The land on which the family live was preempted by the father in 1836 and in the work of development and improvement they have all borne their share.

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#### FRANK MEYERHOLZ.

By means of perseverance, capable supervision and intelligent direction of his investments Frank Meyerholz has attained a position which entitles him to be numbered among the representative stockmen of Wapello township. He was born in Jefferson township, Louisa county, on the 27th of March 1865, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Burchold) Meyerholz.

The common schools of his native county provided Mr. Meyerholz with his education, which was completed with the mastery of the common branches. Until he attained his majority he remained a member of the parental household, working for his father in the cultivation of the fields. Considering that he had sufficient knowledge of the principles of agriculture to enable him to successfully pursue that vocation, in 1893 he purchased eighty acres of land on section 2, Wapello township. This formed the nucleus of his present homestead, to which he has since added at various times until he now owns two hundred and

eighty-five acres of tillable land, all of which he has under cultivation. All of the improvements now on his farm have been made during the period of his occupancy. The buildings are substantially constructed and conveniently arranged, ample provision being made in both barns and sheds for the protection of stock and grains. In addition to the cultivation of his fields Mr. Meyerholz raises stock, this being his specialty. He keeps only the best grades and is making a success of the breeding and raising of polled Aberdeen Angus cattle, owning some registered stock. He has all kinds of stock upon his place, including some fine horses, sheep and hogs.

On the 29th of November, 1893, Mr. Meyerholz married Miss Lenora B. Small, a daughter of S. F. and Elizabeth A. (Humphreys) Small. By this union have been born six sons and one daughter, in order of birth as follows: Minnie M., who was born on the 23d of May, 1895; Harry A., who was born on the 22d of March, 1897; Henry S., born on the 25th of May, 1899; Earl R., born on the 23d of February, 1901; Theodore R., born on the 13th of December, 1902; Albert E., who was born on the 22d of August, 1904, and died on the 30th of the same month; and John C., whose birth occurred on the 23d of July, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyerholz attend the Methodist Episcopal church and he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias Lodge. In politics he adheres to the principles of the republican party for whose candidates he always casts his ballot, although his own interests are too extensive to warrant his actively participating in township affairs. Mr. Meyerholz is one of the highly regarded men of his township, who in his business transactions as well as private relations has proven to be trustworthy and dependable.

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### JAMES REYNOLDS WILLSON.

James Reynolds Willson, who for more than fifty years has been a resident of Iowa, during the last sixteen of which he has been living retired in Morningsun, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 23d of July, 1823. He is a son of John Z. and Nancy (McConnell) Willson, both natives of the Keystone state, where the mother also passed away. The father remained in his native state until 1852 when he removed to Iowa, locating on a farm in Des Moines county, where he was residing at the time of his demise on the 7th of February, 1871. He had reached the venerable age of eighty-seven years at the time of his death, his natal day having been the 31st of January, 1784. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willson were born ten children, all of whom attained maturity and three of whom are still living. They were reared in Pennsylvania and they were all unmarried when they located in Iowa. Every few years they hold a reunion of the family, whose members now number over one hundred, all the direct descendants of John Z. and Nancy Willson.

The first twenty-eight years of the life of J. R. Willson were spent in the rural districts of Pennsylvania, his education being acquired in the common

schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-one, then he rented a farm which he cultivated until 1851, in which year he came west and located in Des Moines county. Here he entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which he cultivated until 1895. He then rented his farm to one of his sons and retired to Morning Sun, where he owns a very pleasant residence, and has ever since continuously lived.

Mr. Willson was united in marriage February 16, 1853, to Miss Myrilla Reid, who was born in Greene county, Ohio. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Robinson) Reid, were also natives of the Buckeye state and came to Iowa in 1849, settling in Des Moines county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willson were born thirteen children, seven of whom are deceased. Those surviving are: John Z., who is living on the old homestead; Mary E., who taught in the missionary schools for several years and engaged in missionary work in Oklahoma, but is now keeping house for her father; Anna J., who married C. B. Wilson of this county; A. M., who is living in Colorado; Mattie A., who married Charles Wickertsheimer, now a resident of Idaho; and Lois S., the wife of M. C. Honeyman, of Emerson, Iowa. Mrs. Willson passed away on the 27th of October, 1909, and was laid to rest in the Sharon cemetery in Des Moines county.

Mr. Willson and his family are all affiliated with the Reformed Presbyterian church, of which the mother was also a member, and they take an earnest and active interest in all the work of the various departments and societies connected with the organization. A man of strong character and determination of purpose Mr. Willson has always striven to direct his life in accordance with the highest Christian principles in both his public and private relations.

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### WILLIAM SINK.

William Sink, who is the proprietor of a popular livery establishment at Columbus Junction and is also successfully identified with other branches of business, was born near Trenton, Missouri, January 11, 1871, a son of Chesley and Anna S. (Dennison) Sink. The father was born in Virginia and the mother in Illinois. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1852 but later moved to Missouri, where they lived for eleven years. At the end of the time named they returned to this county where they still reside. In their family were eight children, two of whom survive: Ida, who is the wife of William Shaw, of Wapello; and William, of this review.

It is to the public schools, which have been aptly termed the bulwark of the nation, that Mr. Sink owes his early educational advantages and training. He assisted his father in the work of the farm during the periods of vacation and continued with his parents until twenty-one years of age and then embarked in the livery and draying business at Columbus Junction. After four years he sold out and engaged in buying and shipping horses. In 1909 he again purchased the livery barn and now enjoys a lucrative patronage, being the owner of one of

the most complete establishments of the kind in the county. He also continues as a buyer and shipper of horses, and as he is a good judge of a horse and is also a good buyer he is making a great success of the business. He owns sixty-three acres of land within the city limits and also a comfortable residence and two town lots, being recognized as one of the substantial men of Columbus Junction.

On the 26th of January, 1893, Mr. Sink was married to Miss Rachel Crim, who is a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Charles M. and Louisa M. (Foster) Crim. Fraternally Mr. Sink holds membership in Lodge No. 365, I. O. O. F., and in Lodge No. 22, Knights of Pythias, of Columbus Junction. In politics he adheres to the republican party but he has never aspired to the emoluments of public office. He is an active member of the board of directors of the Columbus Junction Fair Association and may always be depended upon to assist in promoting any movement which aims to advance the general welfare. From his boyhood he has been actuated by a laudable ambition to win an honorable name, and although he has only reached middle life he has in an important measure succeeded in the accomplishment of his desire. He has never yielded to obstacles and there are few men of his age in this section who give greater promise of achievement in years to come.

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#### WARREN M. BOYER.

Warren M. Boyer, a well known and enterprising citizen of Wapello, has there been engaged in the livery business for the past nine years and has resided upon his present farm since April, 1910. His birth occurred in Pike county, Missouri, on the 16th of February, 1877, his parents being Michael and Margaret Boyer, who were natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, at an early day and subsequently removed to Missouri, in which state the father passed away. He was four times married and had three children by each wife. The children born of the first and second marriages are all deceased. Those by the third wife are: Clint, a resident of Wisconsin; Lottie, the wife of George Phiffer, of Lone Tree, Iowa; and Ella, the wife of Robert Young, of Wapello. The mother of our subject, who was the fourth wife, makes her home in Wapello, and the children born to her are: John, who is a resident of Wapello; Utica, the wife of J. Adams, of Wapello; and Warren M., of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the common schools and remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age. On attaining his majority he began working on a farm, devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits until he embarked in the livery business at Wapello. He owns eighteen head of horses and enjoys a liberal patronage.

In 1900 Mr. Boyer was united in marriage to Miss Grace Finley, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of S. S. and Mary J. Finley, whose family

numbered seven children. Mr. Finley died in this county but his widow still resides here. Mr. Boyer gives his political allegiance to the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He is a man of many sterling traits of character, reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times trustworthy and honorable.

### JAMES PEMBLE.

The greatest factor in the progress and development of the American nation has been its self-made men, whose determination of purpose and perseverance is seemingly nourished by each obstacle which arises to thwart their purposes, their natures acknowledging no defeat but dominating the conditions which surround them. Among such as these is numbered James Pemble, who at the tender age of ten years was thrown upon his own resources but is now living retired, enjoying the ease and comfort which were denied him in his childhood and youth. He was born in the town of Biddenden, Kent county, England, on the 5th of November, 1831, and is a son of Daniel and Anna (Breakfield) Pemble, both natives of England, who emigrated to the United States in 1840, locating in the state of New York. There the father passed away a year later but the mother survived until she had attained the venerable age of eighty-two. They were the parents of eight children, only three of whom are now living.

James Pemble was a lad of nine years when the family came to the United States, his education being acquired in the common schools of his native country and those of the state of New York. When he was ten he was compelled to leave school and commence his battle with the world. His first position was as a farm hand, with which occupation he continued to be identified for four years. At the expiration of that period he rented a small farm, in the cultivation of which he engaged for several years. In 1850 he came west and settled in Peoria county, Illinois, where he rented a farm, in the operation of which he was engaged until 1860, when he located in Louisa county, Iowa. He continued to farm as a renter for several years and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Port Louisa township, where he resided for thirty years. Disposing of his farm at the end of that time he subsequently purchased his present homestead which contains a little more than seven hundred acres of land on sections 3 and 4, Jefferson township. Although he has always engaged in general farming, he has made a specialty of raising and feeding cattle for the market.

Mr. Pemble was married at the age of twenty-three to Miss Marian Wyman, who was born in Peru, Vermont, on the 5th of June, 1838. She is a daughter of Oliver and Sallie (Aldrich) Wyman, also natives of Vermont, who removed to Peoria county, Illinois, in 1852 and there spent the remainder of their days. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pemble were born nine, six sons and three daughters, as follows:



MR. AND MRS. JAMES PEABODY





Charles E., who is residing in Peoria, Illinois; Frank D., of Wapello, Iowa; Fannie M., the wife of F. L. Kennedy, of Peoria; James G., who died in infancy; J. D. and Erminie, twins, the former a resident of Idaho and the latter the wife of William Lieberknecht, of this county; Ada L., who married C. W. Johann, of Wapello; Ray H., a resident of Lillian, Idaho; and Earl M., who was born on the 14th of April, 1874, and died on the 15th of January, 1894. There are now twenty-three grand-children and five great-grandchildren.

The political views of Mr. Pemble are in accord with the principles of the democratic party, but he has never filled any office save that of school director. He was master of the Grange for several years and both he and his wife affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church, with which they united many years ago and among whose members they have many friends. Mr. Pemble encountered many hardships and misfortunes in his pathway but energy and perseverance such as his are not easily conquered, and he plodded steadily onward until he attained a position which caused him to be recognized as one of the capable and substantial agriculturists of his township, his efforts at all times being aided through Mrs. Pemble's capable supervision of the household affairs.

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#### WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL.

One of the many citizens of Louisa county who went to the front in defense of their country in the early '60s is William J. Campbell, a retired agriculturist of Elliott township. He was born in Perry county, Illinois, on the 18th of August, 1839, and is a son of William S. and Nancy (McComb) Campbell, the father a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and the mother of Chester county, South Carolina, but of Irish extraction. They were married in southern Illinois and soon afterward removed to Henderson county, that state, where they resided until 1857, when they came to Des Moines county, Iowa. They continued to make their home on a farm until 1864, when they disposed of that property and went to Northfield, where the mother passed away in 1867. Subsequently the father again sold his home and removed to Chariton, this state, where he was residing at the time of his demise in February, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. William S. Campbell were the parents of seven children: Mary Ann, the widow of Fred Courts, of Quincy, Illinois; William J., our subject; Moses F., now a resident of California; Thomas H., who is deceased; Eliza, the widow of Wesley Cowles, of California; Theodore, who is deceased; and one who died in infancy.

William J. Campbell acquired his early education in the common schools, following which he attended college, remaining at home until the opening of the Civil war. He first enlisted for four months, going to the front under Captain Streator. During that period he saw much active service, the two most important engagements probably being those of Dug Springs and Wilson Creek. At the expiration of his period of enlistment he returned to St. Louis, being



mustered out there on the 20th of August, 1861. He returned home but re-enlisted October 10th, and on the 15th of November, 1861, was mustered into service, going to the front as captain of Company K, Fourteenth Iowa Volunteers. His second period of service covered three years and he participated in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh, being taken prisoner during the latter conflict and held for six months and eleven days. When paroled he returned home, where he remained for two months, during which time he was married. Shortly afterward he again joined his regiment, remaining at the front till the close of hostilities, when he was mustered out at Davenport. After the close of the war he came to Louisa county and bought a farm, which he cultivated until 1907, when he retired and removed to Oakville, where he continues to reside, but he still owns two hundred and forty acres of land in section 34, Elliott township.

Mr. Campbell was united in marriage on the 20th of November, 1862, to Miss Mary Jane Johnson, who was born in Wapello township, this county, on the 10th of March, 1843, a daughter of George and Margaret Johnson, natives of Fayette county, Ohio. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were born twelve children: Anna E., who is now deceased; Elmer E., a resident of this county; Susan J., also living in this county; George W., who is operating the old homestead; Maggie M. and John T., twins, the former the wife of Frank Swise, of Oakville, and the latter also residing in Louisa county; Frank W., living in Minnesota; Robert S., also in Minnesota; Charles, deceased; James A., now living in Oakville; Emma A., the wife of D. D. Marshall, of Oakville; and Thomas W., deceased. Mrs. Campbell died on the 5th of December, 1910, being survived by nine of her children and twenty grandchildren, and was laid to rest in Northfield cemetery, Des Moines county. She was a member of the Methodist church.

His first vote Mr. Campbell cast for Abraham Lincoln and has ever since given his support to the candidates of the republican party. He has always taken an active interest in all political affairs and has filled a number of the township offices. Through the medium of his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic Mr. Campbell maintains relations with his comrades of the Civil war, of whom there are but few left. He is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Elliott township, as in all of his relations in life he has shown the same just spirit and loyalty which characterized him as a soldier and officer on the battlefields of the south, where he rendered such efficient service.

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#### FRANK WRIGHT, M. D.

The entire period of the professional life of Dr. Frank Wright was spent in Wapello, where he passed away on the 17th of August, 1903. He was a native of Louisa county, his birth occurring on the 13th of September, 1867, and was a son of the late John and Rebecca Wright. The father has been dead for

several years, but the mother still survives and makes her home in Morning Sun, Iowa. They were the parents of eight children.

Almost the entire life of Frank Wright was spent in his native county, in the schools of which he acquired his preliminary education. After graduating from the high school he decided to adopt the profession of dental surgery for his vocation and was graduated from the dental department of the State University of Iowa. Subsequently going to Chicago he matriculated at the American College of Dental Surgery of that city, from which he received his degree after the usual lapse of time. He also took a post graduate course at the University College of Dental Surgery in Philadelphia. After the completion of his professional studies he returned to Wapello to practice and was meeting with very good success in his work at the time of his demise.

In 1894 Dr. Wright was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hook, also a native of this county and a daughter of G. W. and Emily B. (Trask) Hook, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Illinois. They were among the pioneer settlers and extensive landowners of this county, where the father passed away on the 13th of November, 1895, and the mother on the 31st of January, 1910, at the age of seventy-three years. Unto them were born nine children, eight of whom are still living. At the time of her marriage and for several years previously Mrs. Wright was engaged in teaching school in this county. Two children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Wright: Raymond H., who was born on the 14th of October, 1895, and is now attending the St. John's Military Academy at Delafield, Wisconsin; and Robert E., whose birth occurred on the 4th of September, 1900.

Dr. Wright was interred in the cemetery of Wapello, of which town he had been a resident for so many years and where his wife and family continue to make their home. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, while both he and his wife were affiliated with the Eastern Star. Dr. Wright was highly esteemed both professionally and socially in Wapello, where he had many friends who had known him since boyhood.

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#### I. E. BROWN.

One of the citizens of Louisa county who has met with success in agricultural pursuits is I. E. Brown, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres on section 26, Elliott township. He was born in Ohio on the 22d of November, 1867, and is the youngest son of John and Elizabeth (Bird) Brown, also natives of the Buckeye state, where the mother died when our subject was only four years of age. The family removed from Ohio to Illinois and resided in Sangamon county until 1869. From there they came to Louisa county, settling on a farm, and the father still survives and continues to make his home in this state. In the family were five children, four of whom are living, as follows:

John W., who is living in Indiana; Charles, who is a resident of Webster City, Iowa; Seymour J., of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Newton J., deceased; and I. E., our subject.

The first seventeen years of his life, I. E. Brown spent under the parental roof, his time being divided between the work of the fields and the schoolroom, both of which were now and then varied by such diversions as appeal to the youth of the more sparsely settled communities. He began his life as a wage earner in 1884 by accepting a position as a farm hand, continuing to be thus employed for eight years. Ambitious and thrifty, he carefully saved his wages until 1892 he was able to purchase his present homestead. Success has attended the efforts of Mr. Brown, who has brought many improvements in his farm during the period of his residence, having erected some fine buildings and brought the land into such a state of cultivation that abundant harvests are always assured. He is making a specialty of the raising and feeding of hogs, which venture has proven to be very lucrative, in addition to the cultivation of his fields.

On September 30, 1888, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brown and Miss Harriet L. Moon, who is a native of Missouri and a daughter of William and Czrena Moon. Her father is deceased but her mother still survives and is now making her home in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have five children: Edith M., who is at home; Irene Gertrude, a high school student; and Myrtle Elizabeth, Raymond Elsworth, and Geneva May.

Mr. Brown, who has served his township in both the capacity of trustee and school director, gives his political support to the candidates of the republican party, as he considers their policy best adapted to protect the interests of the majority. The church affiliation of both himself and family is with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. For the past five years he has been one of the directors of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Louisa county, of which he is one of the stockholders, the length of his service attesting his ability as a business man. During their residence in Elliott township, which covers a period of nearly twenty years, both Mr. and Mrs. Brown have made many friends in both their church and the community where they reside.

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### JAMES R. McDANIEL.

On the roll of Louisa county's honored pioneers who have now passed away appears the name of James R. McDaniel, who for a number of years was actively and prominently connected with agricultural pursuits here. He had long since passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten for he was born on the 17th of June, 1828, his life record covering the intervening years until the 2d of October, 1908. He was born in Tennessee, a son of Likens and Nancy (Wallace) McDaniel, also natives of Tennessee, where the mother died when our subject was eighteen months old, when the family removed to Carlinville,



JAMES R. McDANIEL



Illinois, our subject's uncle, David McDaniel being the first man married in Macoupin county.

James R. McDaniel was but a lad of thirteen years when, in 1842, he came to Iowa, then a frontier district and still under territorial rule. Much of the land was yet unclaimed and many evidences of pioneer life remained. Undaunted, however, with the prospect of a hard struggle, the boy cast in his lot with the early settlers of this locality, purchasing a farm in Louisa county, upon which he continued to reside throughout the remainder of his life. He was alert and energetic and not afraid to work, and as time passed he brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, becoming one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of the county. At the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and fifty acres, all well developed and improved, constituting a valuable and desirable estate.

On February 6, 1856, Mr. McDaniel was married to Miss Sarah A. Snodgrass, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of James and Clarissa (McDaniel) Snodgrass, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Her mother's death occurred in Fulton county, Illinois, and her father later removed to Kansas, where he passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel were born three children, all of whom are now deceased.

With the passing of Mr. McDaniel on the 2d of October, 1908, Louisa county lost one of its oldest and most highly respected citizens, who for sixty-six years was actively identified with agricultural pursuits here. During that period he saw the country converted from vast stretches of prairie land into rich, arable fields, witnessed the introduction of the railroad and telegraph systems throughout the county, and rejoiced at the progress which was constantly carried forward and at the same time took his full share in the work of improvement and development. His widow now makes her home in Wapello, in the fine residence which belonged to her husband, and she also owns a part of the old homestead farm. She is a faithful and exemplary member of the Presbyterian church, to which he also belonged, and is a lady of most estimable character, greatly respected and admired by those with whom she has been brought in contact.

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#### DALE W. KREMER.

Among the agriculturists of Wapello township, Louisa county, who are numbered among the substantial farmers and representative citizens and who have achieved success and surrounded themselves with prosperity by their own exertions and persevering efforts, is Dale W. Kremer, whose birth occurred in this county on the 14th of September, 1861. His parents, W. S. and Elizabeth E. (Whicher) Kremer, have for many years been residents of Wapello, Iowa, where the father has continuously been connected with public affairs for an extensive period. He has served as mayor of the city and in various other

important offices, and is now acting as county surveyor of Louisa county, which position he has filled for fifty-four years, an unparalleled record in this county.

During the period of his boyhood and youth Dale W. Kremer was afforded such educational advantages as was possible in the early '70s, which he utilized to the best possible advantage. He attended the public school until he was fifteen years of age, when he entered the high school at Wapello, from which institution he was graduated in due course of time. Three winters were then spent in study at Howe Academy, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, after which he took up the profession of teaching and was thus engaged in the schools of Louisa county for three years. He proved a capable and successful teacher, clearly and readily imparting to others the knowledge which he had himself acquired, but feeling that he might find a more congenial and profitable field along agricultural lines he retired from that profession to enter farming pursuits. Purchasing a tract of eighty acres from his father he has since given his attention to its development and improvement, in which undertaking he has prospered. He gives careful attention to the cultivation of his fields, raising the various grains and cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and also devotes considerable time to his stock-raising interests, in which he makes a specialty of White Wyandotte chickens.

On the 13th of September, 1886, Mr. Kremer was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Jamison, who was born in Newport, Iowa, a daughter of J. W. and Rachel Jamison. This union has been blessed with two children, namely; Clara Pearl, who married John A. Vogelgesang of Burlington, Iowa; and Nellie M., residing at home.

The parents are members of the Christian church, and Mr. Kremer gives his support to the republican party. Although he served as assessor for three years by appointment he is not a politician in the usually accepted sense of office seeking. However he has ever remained loyal to the best interests of the community in which he makes his home and has manifested those qualities which stand for honorable manhood and desirable citizenship. He is a man of high moral character, industrious, enterprising and honest, and is numbered among the intellectual and substantial residents of Wapello township.

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### NORMAN T. WHEELER.

One of the enterprising and successful agriculturists of Morning Sun township is Norman T. Wheeler, who was born in Louisa county on the 20th of December, 1874. His parents were Elisha and Catherine (Hunter) Wheeler, the mother a native of Maryland and the father of Pennsylvania. They migrated to Iowa in 1865, locating on a farm which they cultivated until the father's demise in 1883. The mother survived him for fourteen years thereafter, passing away on the 15th of October, 1897. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living.

Reared on the farm where he was born Norman T. Wheeler acquired his education in the common schools in the vicinity of his home. He remained a member of the parental household until he was married, following which he removed to the farm where he is now residing. Mr. Wheeler has met with more than an average degree of success in his pursuits and now owns the property where he is living. He has wrought many changes in the place during the period of his occupancy, having erected a fine new residence and some outbuildings. His farm contains one hundred and eighty acres, located on section 26, all of which is in a good state of cultivation. Although he engages in general farming he makes a specialty of the raising and feeding of hogs.

Mr. Wheeler was married March 9, 1898, to Miss Myrtle Hamilton, who was born in Des Moines county, on the 22d of March, 1878. Mrs. Wheeler is a daughter of Robert M. and Maria (Whittaker) Hamilton, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Illinois. They lived in Iowa until 1900 when they removed to Minnesota, where they are now residing. Unto them were born ten children, only four of whom are now living. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler has been blessed with the birth of three children: Marie E., who was born on the 22d of December, 1898; Harold L., born on the 28th of October, 1900; and Bernard N., whose birth occurred on the 25th of January, 1903.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler are members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. Ever since granted the right of suffrage Mr. Wheeler has voted for the men and measures of the republican party, but not being an aspirant for public honors or the emoluments of office he has never actively participated in township affairs. By the intelligent direction of his affairs, to the supervision of which he has always given careful attention, Mr. Wheeler has met with success and is becoming recognized as one of the substantial agriculturists of his township.

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#### O. P. WILCOX.

It has been truly said that no human being has lived in vain who made the world better for having passed this way. The remark applies to O. P. Wilcox, now deceased, who for many years was a respected citizen of Columbus Junction—a man whose life was very largely controlled by a desire to enhance the happiness of those with whom he was associated and who nobly performed his part as a citizen and as head of a promising family.

He was a native of Blount county, Tennessee, born April 16, 1851, a son of Samuel S. and Amanda Jane (Shaw) Wilcox. The parents were both born in Tennessee and were married in that state. On coming to Iowa they located on a farm in Louisa county, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father passing away in May, 1893, and the mother in November, 1892. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom are now living.



O. P. Wilcox arrived in Iowa at the age of six months and received his education in the district schools of Louisa county. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age and then rented land for a year on his own account, at the close of which time he purchased eighty acres in Union township. He cultivated his farm industriously until 1881 when he sold out and moved to Columbus Junction, where he engaged in the lumber business. After two years he disposed of his business and purchased a grocery store, which he conducted successfully until he retired. He was a good business man and also a competent farmer, becoming the owner of two hundred and four acres of good land in this county, in which he invested his surplus capital.

On Christmas day of 1873 Mr. Wilcox was married to Miss Lucinda R. Harmon, who was born in Louisa county, November 21, 1854, a daughter of James and Mary A. (Duncan) Harmon. The parents were both born in Blount county, Tennessee, and came to Louisa county, Iowa, early in the '40s, locating in a log cabin with clapboard roof, puncheon floor, clapboard door and a stick chimney. As times improved, however, they occupied a more commodious residence. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom survive. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: Emma A., the wife of C. V. Shipman, of Sully, Iowa; Robert H., at home; Francis O., now a resident of Montrose; Orlando A., also at home; Zola M., who was born December 29, 1889, and died March 6, 1911; and George M., at home.

Mr. Wilcox died February 15, 1910, leaving many friends who sincerely mourned his loss. Politically he was independent, preferring to vote for the man rather than in support of any party. He took a great interest in local affairs and served for fourteen years as a member of the town board, showing a judgment and discrimination which met the hearty approval of the citizens irrespective of party. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She still owns a farm in this county, the Columbus Hotel, and also a comfortable residence in Columbus Junction. She is a member of Lodge No. 245, Royal Neighbors, and of the Fraternal Aid Association, and can claim a large circle of friends and acquaintances in Columbus Junction and Louisa county who admire her for her generous nature and pleasing social qualities.

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#### GREGOR HERR.

Gregor Herr, who has lived retired at Oakville for the past two years, was successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising throughout his active business career. His birth occurred in Germany on the 10th of March, 1845, his parents being Frederick and Belbia Herr, both of whom passed away in that country. Their children were six in number, as follows: Gregor, of this review; Mathias, who died in Germany; George, living in Louisa county, Iowa; Andrew, who is a resident of Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Elizabeth, who is the wife

of George Hook and makes her home in Germany; and Caroline, of Des Moines county, Iowa.

Gregor Herr remained in the fatherland until he had attained the age of twenty years and in July, 1865, emigrated to the United States, coming direct to Louisa county, Iowa. After a residence of five years he took up his abode in Mercer county, Illinois, where he remained for a similar period. Returning to Louisa county, he purchased eighty acres of land but subsequently sold the property and bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres, of which he retained possession until he put aside the active work of the fields in 1900. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also devoted considerable attention to stock-raising, winning a gratifying measure of prosperity in both branches of his business. Two years ago he purchased ten acres of land in Oakville and has resided there up to the present time, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease.

Mr. Herr has been married twice. In 1871 he wedded Miss Augusta Hook, a daughter of Joseph and Barbara Hook, both of whom are deceased. By that union there were five children, namely: Joseph, who is a resident of Hamilton, Iowa; George, who has passed away; Emerson, the wife of D. E. Strawhacker, of Oakville; Sophia, the wife of F. S. Searl, of Oakville; and Annie, the wife of Harry Munson, who also resides in Oakville. The wife and mother passed away in the 17th of March, 1895, and on Valentine day, February 14, 1900, Mr. Herr was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary A. Kerr, the widow of James Kerr and a daughter of William and Martha Munson. By his second wife Mr. Herr had three children: Lucy and Ruby, both at home; and Evalina, who is deceased.

In politics Mr. Herr is a stanch democrat, believing firmly in the principles of that party. In religious faith he is a Catholic. The hope that led him to leave his native land and seek a home in America has been more than realized. He found the opportunities he sought which, by the way, are always open to the ambitious, energetic man—and making the best of these he has steadily worked his way upward. He possesses the resolution, perseverance and reliability so characteristic of his nation, and his name is now enrolled among the best citizens of Louisa county.

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#### ELMORE L. EDMONDSON.

One of the promising and highly esteemed young attorneys of Wapello is Elmore L. Edmondson, who was born in this county on the 14th of December, 1886. He is a son of Micajah and Sarah (McCleary) Edmondson, both natives of this county, who reside on a farm in the vicinity of Columbus Junction.

Reared at home, Elmore L. Edmondson continued to remain there for two years after he was graduated from the high school at Columbus Junction, devoting his summers to agricultural pursuits, while he taught school in the win-

ter. He subsequently entered Cornell College at Mount Vernon and after receiving his degree, matriculated in the law department of the Iowa State University at Iowa City, from which institution he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Law, being admitted to the bar in 1910. Immediately following he came to Wapello and entered the office of Oscar Hale, where he has ever since been located. In addition to his law practice he also handles real estate and furnishes abstracts. Always a student and thinker, Mr. Edmondson is well fitted for the profession he has elected to follow both by nature and preparation. He possesses the mental sagacity, keen powers of deduction and command of English and choice of words so essential in his practice.

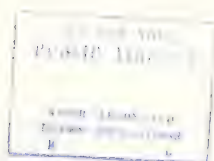
Fraternally Mr. Edmondson is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic order. Public-spirited and progressive in his ideas, he takes an active interest in all municipal affairs, giving his political support to the candidates of the republican party. A young man of high ideals, incorruptible integrity and sound principles, fully recognizing his duties and responsibilities as a citizen and member of society, Mr. Edmondson has made many friends during the brief period of his sojourn in Wapello, by whom he is highly regarded.

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#### JACOB W. BENZ.

A good farm of two hundred acres located on section 2, Port Louisa township, is being cultivated by Jacob W. Benz, who engages in general farming and stock-raising. He is a native of Muscatine county, Iowa, his birth having occurred on the 14th of December, 1866. He is a son of Mathias and Lucy (Schneider) Benz. The father was originally from near Baden, Germany, and the mother from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. They were married in Muscatine county, Iowa, following which event they located upon a farm which they bought in Louisa county and in the cultivation of which the father engaged for eight years. At the expiration of that period they disposed of the property and removed to Washington county, where he purchased another farm, which he operated until 1892. Again selling their homestead they returned to Muscatine county, buying some land in Lake township, upon which they resided until the mother passed away in 1903. Since then the father has made his home with his children. They were the parents of six children: Lydia, the wife of W. F. Nelson, a resident of Louisa county; Mollie, who married H. J. Jeffries, of Muscatine county; Annie, who became the wife of O. J. Derby, of Louisa county; Jacob W., the subject of this sketch; Albert, who died at the age of eight years; and Zula, the deceased wife of J. W. Hintermeister, of Louisa county.

The district schools of Louisa and Washington counties provided Jacob W. Benz with his education, following the acquirement of which he assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm, remaining a member of the parental house-





MR. AND MRS. JACOB W. BENZ



MR. AND MRS. MATHIAS BENZ



MR. AND MRS. LOUIS BEIK



hold until he was twenty-five years of age. In 1891 he left home to begin working for himself and for eight years thereafter he farmed as a renter. As his efforts were rewarded with very good returns he managed to acquire sufficient means during that period to enable him to purchase a farm of two hundred acres of finely improved land, all of which is under a very good state of cultivation with the exception of sixty acres in timber.

Mr. Benz established a home for himself in 1904 by his marriage to Miss Nettie Beik, their wedding being solemnized on the 18th of February. Mrs. Benz is a native of this county, her natal day being the 20th of April, 1866, and a daughter of Louis and Lovey (Godfrey) Beik. The father was born in Baden, Germany, and the mother in Indiana but they were married in Louisa county. They began their domestic life upon a farm in this county, which now constitutes a portion of the homestead of their son-in-law, Jacob W. Benz. Here Mrs. Beik passed away in July, 1903, but Mr. Beik survived until the 13th of December, 1907, always having been engaged in the cultivation of his farm. Three children were born of this union: Nettie, now Mrs. Benz; Luella, who married C. W. Graham, of Grandview, Iowa; and May, the wife of C. E. Wilson, of Louisa county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Benz has been born one child, Nola May, whose birth occurred on the 27th of June, 1907. They are raising the son of Mr. Benz's sister, Hershaw Oliver Hintermeister.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Benz are Christians and affiliate with the Church of God. His political support he gives to the republican party but not being an office seeker he does not prominently participate in local affairs but meets the requirements of good citizenship by casting a ballot on election day. Enterprising and energetic he is one of the progressive agriculturists of Port Louisa township who is contributing toward the development and advancement of the community in which he resides.

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### JOHN E. WILSON.

The activities of John E. Wilson are concentrated upon the development of his farm, containing three hundred and fourteen acres of excellent land in Wapello township. He was born in Northfield, Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 22d of November, 1856, and is the eldest child of John and Nancy (Elliott) Wilson, natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. The father has passed away, but the mother still survives and now makes her home in Morning Sun. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are living, those beside our subject being: Rachel N., who is the second in order of birth and the wife of J. A. Reid, of Morning Sun; Samuel O., who is living in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and Margaret, the wife of J. O. Gloss, of Homestead, Pennsylvania. The third in order of birth passed away in infancy.

After he had completed his education, which was acquired in the district schools of Des Moines county, John E. Wilson assisted his father in the culti-



vation of the old homestead until he was thirty-one. After the demise of his father he rented the farm for four years, and then disposing of it he removed to Morning Sun. During the next twelve years he worked at the carpenter's trade, but at the expiration of that period he rented one hundred and twenty acres of land in Des Moines county, Iowa. He cultivated this for two years and then rented four hundred and eighty acres of S. E. Gates, of Oakville, Iowa, which he operated for seven years. Subsequently he purchased his homestead on section 14, Wapello township, and there he engages in general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Wilson was married on the 2d of February, 1887, to Miss Nancy Ann Edgar, who was born on the 1st of November, 1866. She is a daughter of David and Martha (McElhinny) Edgar, to whom were born the following children: James L., who is a resident of Glenwood, Minnesota; Samuel E., living in Morning Sun; William J., of Crawfordsville, Iowa; Thomas, deceased; Nancy Ann, now Mrs. Wilson; Robert M., deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of George R. Thompson, of Pennsylvania; and Martha J., who married E. W. Hensleigh, of Blanchard.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Edgar married Miss Julia Wells, and of their union there were born five children: George G., who is living in Seattle, Washington; Melville, a resident of the same place; Emma L. and Ellen E., twins, the former the wife of Samuel Hartzell, of Pennsylvania, and the latter the wife of Alfred Killpatrick, of Des Moines county; and Charles F., who married Agnes Hartzell and is living in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have seven children, six sons and one daughter, the order of their birth being as follows: Oliver L., who was born in the 7th of May, 1888; Ewert, born on the 15th of October, 1889; John E., born on the 26th of March, 1892; Armour M., born on the 22d of November, 1895; Martha E., born on the 5th of July, 1899; Robert Z., born on the 10th of March, 1901; and Samuel E., whose birth occurred on the 20th of July, 1907.

The family attend the services of the Reformed Presbyterian church, of which the parents are earnest and active members. A man of energy and enterprise Mr. Wilson has always so capably directed his transactions as to be recognized as one of the competent business men and highly regarded citizens of Wapello township.

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### GRIFFITH JONES.

The possibilities that are available in America under the favoring influences of the great republic are clearly illustrated in the record of Griffith Jones, a well known farmer of Columbus City township, who began as an orphan but is now one of the most prosperous citizens in this part of the county. He is a native of Wales, where he was born January 5, 1865, a son of Richard and Anna (Jones) Jones. The father emigrated to America with his family in 1868 and

settled upon a farm in Des Moines county, Iowa. He died in 1873 and his wife in June, 1899. There were six children in their family, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: Griffith, of this review; Owen, who is now living in Wyoming; and Jane, Robert and Anna, all of whom are deceased.

Griffith Jones was brought by his parents to the United States at the age of three years and at nine years of age arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, with his mother. He was reared in the family of a kind-hearted cousin, Hugh O. Jones, and continued with his benefactor until he was twenty-four years of age. In the meantime he had secured advantages of education in the common schools and had also become well acquainted with the details pertaining to the various branches of farming. He began his business career by renting two hundred acres and he cultivated this land to such good advantage that two years later he was enabled to purchase one hundred acres in Columbus City township, to which he has from time to time made additions until he is now the owner of two hundred and ten acres. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and, being capable in business, he generally carries forward to a successful completion whatever he undertakes. He has given very close attention to his work and is rewarded with a handsome competence.

On the 22d of December, 1892, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Jennie A. Richard, a daughter of David and Sarah (Owens) Richard, both of whom were born in Wales. The father died March 20, 1892, but the mother is now living with the subject of this review. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones: David R., who was born September 10, 1893; Laura Jane, born February 10, 1895; and John G., born July 13, 1899.

Politically Mr. Jones is a stanch adherent of the republican party. He has never aspired to public office but has served as school director. He is a firm believer in the inspiration of the Bible and is a consistent member of the Congregational church. He has set a good example of industry and perseverance, never allowing himself to become discouraged by difficulties and always adhering to what he considers just and right. He inherited many sturdy qualities from worthy ancestry and is endeavoring, with the assistance of his estimable wife, to rear his children to become honorable and useful members of society. He fully deserves the respect in which he is held by his neighbors and friends and by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

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#### JOSEPH RAY SYPHRIT.

There are few citizens of Iowa who can claim a more worthy line of ancestry than Joseph Ray Syphrit, of Port Louisa township, the family on the paternal side having been traced to very early settlers of Pennsylvania and to Germany. He is a native of Louisa county, born December 7, 1856, a son of Joseph B. and Harriet F. (McNatton) Syphrit. The father was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the mother in Pike county, Ohio. They

were married in Louisa county, Iowa, April 5, 1855. The father taught school for more than thirty years and also served as an instructor at teachers' institutes. In 1865 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of timber land near Grand View and cleared and put under cultivation ninety acres with his own hands, continuing in charge of this farm until 1880. In 1874 he was elected principal of the public schools of Grand View and later served for two years as professor of mathematics at the Eastern Iowa Normal School. In 1878 he bought four hundred acres of land near Red Cloud, Nebraska, which he later disposed of. He sold his homestead near Grand View in 1880 and rented a place in Port Louisa township, which he cultivated for several years. He also taught school in winter. In the fall of 1884 he purchased a farm of ninety acres in Wapello township, in the neighborhood of Fairview, upon which he moved in 1886. He is now residing upon this farm and engages successfully in agriculture and in the handling of bees. He is a member of the Methodist Protestant church and has been a lifelong worker in the Sunday school. He has always been a diligent student and understands thoroughly both the English and German languages. His wife died March 8, 1893. There were eight children in their family, namely: Joseph Ray; Emma W., who became the wife of George Varner, of Louisa county; Rhoda J., who died at the age of two years and eight months; Nevada E., who married Charles H. Hendricks, of Muscatine county; Mary E. and William O., twins, born August 22, 1866, the former the wife of Joseph Scull who resides near Fairview church in Louisa county and the latter who resides near his sister Mary in Louisa county; Alfred M., of Letts; and Henry E., who died at the age of eighteen years.

Our subject's paternal grandfather, Jacob Syphrit, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, June 13, 1804, and received a good education in both the English and German languages. He devoted his attention to farming after reaching maturity and was married June 20, 1820, to Elizabeth Bott, who was born February 8, 1802. They came to Iowa in the spring of 1852, traveling by steamboat down the Ohio river to its mouth and then up the Mississippi river, finally locating in Louisa county. Here the grandfather resided until his death, November 4, 1857, his wife passing away October 27, 1860. They were buried side by side in the Mallory cemetery, near Toolesboro. Both were consistent members of the Presbyterian church. In their family were four children, Joseph B., Catherine E., Christopher J. and Jacob B. Of this family Christopher J. Syphrit was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, July 25, 1834, and in April, 1852, came to Iowa, where he enlisted in April, 1861, in Company I, Eleventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He died at his home in this state in 1862, from exposure at the battle of Shiloh.

The great-grandfather, Christian Syphrit, was born in Westmoreland county in 1777 and was also educated in both the English and German languages. He devoted his attention to farming, also operating a sawmill. He lived during the administrations of all the presidents from Washington to Grant. His wife was Mary Shank before her marriage and was of German descent. They moved to Canada in 1806 but six years later returned to Westmoreland county, where he

farmed and conducted a sawmill for forty-eight years. At the age of eighty-two, in 1860, he sold out and removed to a farm which he purchased near Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio. He still retained his physical strength in a remarkable degree and was able to perform a day's work notwithstanding his old age. He remained hale and hearty until the last day of his life, passing away in the spring of 1872, after a brief illness of only a few hours, having arrived at the age of ninety-five years. He was the father of two sons and five daughters: Jacob, Elizabeth, Barbara, Mollie, Sarah, Nancy and Joseph.

Sebastian Syphrit, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county in 1750 and was also a farmer. His wife was likewise a native of that county and she and her husband conversed in Pennsylvania Dutch. He died at the age of about eighty years. The early ancestors of the family in America came from Germany as members of William Penn's colony.

Joseph Ray Syphrit received a good preliminary education and was graduated from the high school and also from the commercial course of the Eastern Iowa Normal School. At the age of twenty-two years he became a teacher of writing and at twenty-five began teaching school, in which vocation he continued for fourteen years. He also taught for one year in a Normal school. In 1895 he turned his attention to farming and has since devoted his energies to agriculture and fruit-raising, being the owner of a small farm in section 23, Port Louisa township, two miles from Wapello.

On the 10th of September, 1884, Mr. Syphrit was married to Miss Amy J. Fitzgerald, who was born at Muscatine, November 2, 1859. Her parents, Ezekiel and Eliza (Predmore) Fitzgerald, were both natives of Clermont county, Ohio, and the former was of Irish lineage, while the latter was of Scotch descent. Her paternal grandfather, Grant Fitzgerald, was a cabinetmaker of Batavia, Ohio, which place he left in the summer of 1853, bound for Cincinnati, but was never heard from again. Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Fitzgerald were married in the county of their nativity and in 1857 came to Muscatine, Iowa, but shortly afterward removed to Fairview and later located on the farm in Louisa county which is still owned by the family. The father was a cooper by trade and was a soldier of the Civil war. He died on the 14th of August, 1883, and is still survived by his widow, who has now attained the age of eighty years. They were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Fostick, who makes his home in Wapello; Laura B., the widow of Richard O. Chaney and a resident of Thomas county, Kansas; Amy J., now Mrs. Joseph R. Syphrit; George L., of Louisa county; Mary E., the wife of O. P. Dotson, of Eldon, Iowa; and William D. and Arabella, both of whom died at the age of two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Syphrit are the parents of five children: Roy O., born March 1, 1886, who received a high-school education and resides with his parents; Lee A., born April 1, 1888, who is married and is engaged in farming in Louisa county; Joseph E., who was born September 24, 1889, and is now living in South Dakota; Ora May, who died in infancy; and Glen C., who was born April 29, 1895, and resides at home.

Mr. Syphrit is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Wapello. He and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church and are earnest workers in all movements that aim to promote the permanent welfare of the community. He has given the attention of an intelligent citizen to politics and as a result is an adherent of the republican party. He has never been an office seeker although he has filled the position of secretary of the township schools, an office for which he is eminently fitted by education and experience. He has always aimed to make himself useful and in the opinion of his associates he has ably performed his part and therefore is greatly respected wherever known.

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G. C. KREMER.

Wapello township has its full quota of progressive farmers who have contributed their share to the upbuilding and development of the county, and prominent among these is numbered G. C. Kremer. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Wapello on the 29th of April, 1860, his parents being W. S. and Elizabeth E. (Whicher) Kremer, extended mention of whom is made on another page of this volume.

The public schools of his native town afforded G. C. Kremer his educational advantages and when old enough to choose a life work he accepted as his vocation that field of labor which George Washington designated as "the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." He has now made his home for more than twenty years on a farm of eighty acres which he secured from his father, located in Wapello township, and which he has brought under a high state of cultivation. He has greatly enhanced its value by the introduction of modern improvements upon the place and it is now one of the highly developed and desirable properties of the township. Since his occupancy he has been reaping bountiful harvests for he has given careful attention to the management of his affairs and has ever pursued the most practical and approved methods in the operation of his fields. His success in this venture therefore has enabled him to place himself in prosperous circumstances and he is now numbered among the progressive and representative agriculturists of his section.

On the 9th of September, 1890, Mr. Kremer was united in marriage to Miss Ida J. Knaub, a daughter of Henry C. and Ella A. Knaub, natives of Pennsylvania. The father passed away on the 20th of December, 1899, while the mother still survives and makes her home in Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Kremer was the eldest in a family of twelve children, the others being: Lizzie, who married George Garrett, of Friendship, Wisconsin; Sadie, the wife of Dr. J. J. Crider, of Coe Junction; Minnie M., the wife of Charles L. Duncan, of Coe Junction; Harry C., a resident of Davenport; Gertrude, who wedded Guy Kuder, of Chicago; Margaret, the wife of Eugene Pease, of Wapello; Leon, of Chicago; Ethel, who married Frederick Ruffle, also of Chicago; Ruby, who became

the wife of Frank Kennedy, of Chicago; and W. M. and Rexford, both of Chicago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kremer have been born six children but the eldest, Muriel, is now deceased. The others, who are all at home, are as follows: Clayton S.; Nita May; Arthur Z.; Esther K.; and Helen G.

Mrs. Kremer belongs to the Christian church, the principles of which have ever formed the guiding rules of her life, and Mr. Kremer holds membership in the Fraternal Reserve. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has given stalwart support to the republican party, and takes deep interest in all matters having to do with the welfare of the community. He is a man of good business ability, carefully managing his interests, and who has won the success which is now his. Upright character and sterling worth have gained him a favorable place in the regard of many friends and Wapello township, which has remained his place of residence for so many years, numbers him among her valued citizens.

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#### ROBERT R. MEWHIRTER.

An enterprising agriculturist of Marshall township, the appearance of whose homestead bespeaks thrift and capable supervision, is Robert R. Mewhirter. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of June, 1853, and is a son of A. B. and Mary Jane (Reed) Mewhirter, also natives of the Keystone state. In the paternal line Mr. Mewhirter traces his descent back to the same source as President James Buchanan. The father, who passed away in 1902, at the age of seventy-five, was engaged in agricultural pursuits all of his life, most of the time in Louisa county. He enlisted in the Union army, Company G, Nineteenth Iowa Infantry, in 1862 and went to the front, where he served for three years, receiving his discharge in August, 1865. He subsequently returned to Louisa county, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, upon which he was residing at the time of his demise. For three years thereafter his widow continued to make her home on the farm, but in 1905 she removed to Winfield, Iowa, where she was living when she passed away in March, 1908. In their family were eight children: Robert R., our subject; Mattie, deceased; Ida, who is the wife of Love Erb, of Brookings, South Dakota; Mary, the wife of Charles Jager, of Winfield, Iowa; Lillie, who died in infancy; Alice, also deceased; Abbie, who is residing in Winfield; and Minnie, the wife of Charles James, of Columbus City, Iowa.

Reared on a farm Robert R. Mewhirter while pursuing his education in the district schools was becoming familiar with the work of the agriculturist, as, in common with the majority of farmer lads, he was early assigned duties about the barns and in the fields. At the age of twenty-six he deemed himself fully qualified to assume the responsibilities of farming on his own responsibility, so rented the old homestead of his father, in the cultivation of which he engaged for ten years. At the expiration of that period he rented two hundred and forty



acres of the Churchman farm, which he operated for three years. Diligence and economy had enabled him to amass the capital necessary to procure a farm of his own, so in 1892 he purchased his present homestead. The land is all fertile and tillable and during the period of his residence here Mr. Mewhirter has made extensive improvements upon the property. In connection with the cultivation of his fields he makes a specialty of raising and feeding Poland China hogs, under his able direction both branches of his business have proven very profitable.

Mr. Mewhirter consummated his plans for a home by his marriage on the 2d of July, 1881, to Miss Phoebe A. Dawdy, a daughter of A. R. and Mary (Gunter) Dawdy. They became the parents of four daughters and one son: Grace E., who is now the wife of Joseph Toms, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has one daughter, Frances Marion; Arthur, who married Leona Sellers and has one son, Harold E.; Jennie, Mabel and Marion, the three latter at home. The son is now operating the farm which belonged to his grandfather. Mrs. Mewhirter passed away on the 6th of August, 1908.

His political allegiance Mr. Mewhirter gives to the candidates of the republican party, and he holds membership in the Presbyterian church, in the work of which he has always taken an active and helpful interest, and at the present time he is an elder of the church and superintendent of the Sunday school. Both he and his family are highly regarded in the township where they are residing, the hospitality of the best homes being extended to them.

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### JOHN JACOB STAPP.

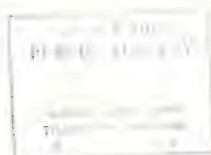
About a third of a century ago John Jacob Stapp, who is now one of the prosperous citizens of Columbus Junction, started out to win for himself an honorable place among his fellowmen. His early dreams have largely been realized and through his energy, perseverance and integrity of character he ranks among the leaders in Louisa county. A native of Columbus City township, he was born December 15, 1856, and is a son of Reuben and Sarah A. (Reece) Stapp. The Stapp family traces its ancestry to Germany and the progenitors in America arrived in the colonies preceding the Revolutionary war, a great-grandfather of the subject of this review having served as a soldier in the patriot army. Jacob Stapp, the grandfather, was born in Pennsylvania, where he spent his entire life. He married Anna Berry, also a native of the Keystone state, and there were three children in their family: Reuben; Caroline, who resides in Columbus City township and is the widow of Jonas Diehl; and Mary, who married William Klotz, of Columbus Junction and is now deceased.

Reuben Stapp was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1821. As an indication of his character it may be stated that he paid his own tuition at school by laboring with his hands. At the age of twenty he began learning the carpenter's trade in his native county and served an apprenticeship of two



JOHN J. STAPP





years. In 1844 he removed to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and there worked at his trade for eight years. While residing in this county he was married, December 28, 1848, to Miss Sarah A. Reece, a daughter of John and Jane (Nichols) Reece, both of whom were born in Virginia, the daughter Sarah also having been born in that state. In 1852, believing that the west offered more favorable inducements than he perceived in Indiana, Mr. Stapp visited Louisa county, Iowa, to investigate its agricultural possibilities and was so greatly pleased that he bought land on section 16, Columbus City township, and brought his family here in 1853. He built a log cabin eighteen by eighteen feet in size, in which the family lived for about eight years, when a more commodious structure was erected. No one appreciated more highly than Mr. Stapp the value of the rich lands of Louisa county and as his resources increased he purchased additional property until he became the owner of several hundred acres. He was also a stockholder and a director of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction. He took a deep interest in the development of the resources of the county and was for many years one of its prominent citizens. He was an active member of the Reformed church and politically gave his support to the democratic party.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Stapp were the parents of twelve children, the first four of whom, Thomas, Caroline, Mary E. and Amanda, died in infancy. The others are: Anna, the wife of T. J. Klotz, of Louisa county; John Jacob, the subject of this review; Ada L. and Ida L., twins, the former of whom became the wife of J. S. Blair, of Louisa county, and the latter of whom married J. J. Duncan, of Columbus Junction; George B., of Cotter; Cora, the wife of Sherman Willey, of Louisa county; and Garry and Harry, twins, the former of Louisa county and the latter of Longmont, Colorado.

John Jacob Stapp, whose name introduces this review, received a common-school education and continued at home until after reaching his majority. At the age of twenty-two years he rented one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he cultivated for one year, and then bought one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he took up his home, developing his farm into one of the valuable properties of the township. After eleven years he disposed of it and purchased two hundred and fifty acres of good land on sections 16 and 21, Columbus City township, which he now owns. On the 25th of November, 1904, he moved to Columbus Junction, having purchased a beautiful home in which he and his family reside. He engages in the real-estate business and, as he has good judgment concerning the value of land, he has attracted a lucrative clientage. He is vice president of the Cotter Savings Bank, of Cotter, Iowa, and a member of the board of directors of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, of Columbus Junction, being a stockholder in both of these institutions.

On the 24th of December, 1878, Mr. Stapp was married to Miss Flora A. Ogier, a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Grimes) Ogier, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, and here passed the remainder of their lives. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stapp, namely: Harry R., who is engaged in the insurance business at Dayton, Ohio;

Elsie, who married Frank Letts, of Clarendon, Texas; Nancy, who became the wife of Harry R. Owen, of Longmont, Colorado; J. Jay, who is in charge of his father's farm and Mona and Mary, both of whom are at home.

In politics Mr. Stapp gives his support to the democratic party. He has never sought public office but has served in minor township offices. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and in religious belief is identified with the Reformed Lutheran church. His life is a striking exemplification of the effect of perseverance and industry, based on sound judgment and an upright character.

### M. C. ROSS.\*

The business interests of Grand View township find a most worthy representative in M. C. Ross, one of the progressive and prosperous residents of Letts. He was born in this township on the 27th of April, 1866, a son of Oscar and Mary A. (Lindsey) Ross, natives of Kentucky and Iowa respectively, their marriage occurring in this state. The father, a farmer by occupation, followed that pursuit until his retirement in 1907, since which time he has made his home with his son in Letts, having now reached the age of seventy-five years. His wife passed away near Grand View in 1883. Of the family of seven children M. C., of this review, is the only surviving member, the others being as follows: Elmina and Mary, who passed away in early childhood; Myra whose death occurred when she was thirty-eight years of age; Evert, who died when eleven years old; Millard, who passed away at the age of seventeen years; and Emma, who had reached the age of twenty-two years when called to her final rest.

M. C. Ross is indebted to the public school system of his native county for the educational advantages which he enjoyed during the period of his boyhood and youth, and after completing his studies remained on the home farm, assisting his father in the cultivation of the fields until he was eighteen years of age. He then began working as a farm hand, being thus employed for seven years, after which he began learning the blacksmith's trade, serving an apprenticeship of four years. At the end of that time he established a shop of his own in Letts, in the conduct of which he has since continued. He now has a fine trade, for his is the most important enterprise of its kind in this locality, and in addition to conducting a general blacksmith's business also handles various kinds of farm implements, buggies, wagons and gasoline engines, carrying a very extensive stock of standard manufacture. The volume of his business is constantly increasing with the passing of the years, and he is recognized today as one of the substantial and representative citizens of Grand View township.

Mr. Ross was married on the 16th of March, 1898, to Miss Emma Soderstrom, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, and passed away three years after her marriage. Unto this union was born one son: Oscar M., whose birth

occurred on the 13th of October, 1899. On June 24, 1908, Mr. Ross was again married, his second union being with Miss Pearl Furnace, whose birth occurred in Letts, her parents being M. P. and Ella (Curtis) Furnace. They still survive, making their home in this town, and are the parents of three children of whom Mrs. Ross is second in order of birth, the others being: Etta, the wife of J. H. Garrett, of Concord township; and Frank, yet at home. By his second marriage Mr. Ross had two children, twins, both of whom are now deceased. Their birth occurred in February, 1911, one passing away at birth and the other surviving for three months.

Mr. Ross holds membership with the Fraternal Aid Association, and since attaining his majority has supported the men and measures of the republican party. He has served on the city council of Letts for the past eight years, is also a member of the school board and is now acting as president of the Cemetery Association of the city of Letts. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of the community in which he resides and he casts his influence on the side of advancement and progress along material, political and intellectual lines. He is meeting with a success in business which is well merited, for his has been a life of unceasing activity, governed by honorable and upright principles. He and his wife occupy a beautiful home, the cordial hospitality of which is enjoyed by a large circle of warm friends.

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#### DANIEL E. BARRICK.

General farming and stock-raising engross the attention of Daniel E. Barrick, who is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 26 and 34, Marshall township. His birth occurred in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of October, 1866, his parents being George W. and Mary Jane (Mixell) Barrick. The mother has passed away, but the father is living at the age of seventy years and now makes his home in Wapello, having come to Louisa county in 1902. Unto Mr. and Mrs. George W. Barrick there were born six children: Harvey, who is deceased; Laura Bell, the wife of D. S. Devore, who is a resident of Louisa county; Daniel E., our subject; Samuel C., also a resident of this county; Susan R., the wife of Adam Henderson, of Green Spring, Pennsylvania; and Mervin E., who is living in Boulder, Colorado. For his second wife the father chose Mrs. Susan (Griffin) Reese, and to them were born two daughters: Lillian Gertrude, who became the wife of Wilbur Stoner, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania; and Cora E., who is living in Wapello.

Daniel E. Barrick laid aside his text-books after the mastery of the common branches, for which purpose he attended the district schools, and at the age of twenty years he began his business career as an agriculturist. In 1891, feeling that he knew enough regarding farming to warrant his beginning for himself, he rented two hundred and forty acres of land in Warren county, Illinois. He met with such success in the cultivation of this that in 1899 he had the

requisite capital to enable him to buy his present place. However, he continued to cultivate rented property for two years thereafter, removing to his Iowa farm in 1902. Here he has resided ever since, during which time he has effected many improvements upon his place. He has erected a fine two story, ten room modern house, good barns and outbuildings, by which he has greatly added to the attractive appearance and value of his property. His fields are well drained and substantially fenced, as well as carefully cultivated, and as a result he reaps abundant harvests. He devotes attention to the raising of Shropshire sheep, in addition to which he is quite an extensive feeder.

On the 25th of February, 1891, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Barrick and Miss M. DeEtte Smith, a daughter of Samuel Hayden and Mary Ann (Tinkham) Smith. Her father is a native of Ohio but her mother was born in Illinois. Mrs. Smith died in March, 1908, and Mr. Smith is now living retired in Kirkwood, Illinois. To them were born four children, those beside Mrs. Barrick being as follows: Jessie, the wife of T. J. Callahan, who is a resident of Wapello; Frederick Hayden, of Warren county, Illinois; and Edna Fay, the deceased wife of Charles Cannell, of Monmouth, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrick have become the parents of three children: Fern Marie, who was born on the 15th of May, 1892; Ray, born on the 18th of March, 1894; and Leslie Clair, who was born on the 17th of February, 1896, and died on the 5th of September, 1897.

The religious faith of the family is manifested through their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Barrick is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance he has never accorded to any party, always having cast his ballot in support of those men and measures he deemed best adapted to meet the requirements of the situation. Progressive and enterprising, he is in every way a modern agriculturist and is meeting the reward of capable supervision and judicious management in lucrative returns.

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#### EVAN H. ARTHUR.

Among the prosperous farmers of Louisa county is Evan H. Arthur, who lives upon a well improved place in Columbus City township which is each year becoming more valuable on account of well considered improvements. He is a native of this county and was born August 9, 1875, a son of Hugh and Elizabeth J. (Jones) Arthur, a record of whom appears upon another page of this work in the sketch of William Arthur, a brother of our subject.

Evan H. Arthur acquired his elementary education in the district schools, but in the years that have since passed has greatly broadened his outlook by reading, observation and contact with the world. He continued with his parents until after the death of his father and since that time has engaged in farming on his own account, being now the owner of one hundred and twenty-seven acres, which he cultivates to excellent advantage. He is a lover of horses and

has made a specialty of breeding thoroughbred Norman horses. He is the owner at the present time of three registered mares and three registered colts, the names of the latter being Topsy, Daisy, and Daisy Dean. As a general farmer he receives generous returns for his labor and each year witnesses a handsome increase in his revenues.

On January 27, 1909, in Louisa county, Mr. Arthur was married to Miss Ruth Peters, a daughter of Richard and Gwendolyn Peters, and they have one child, Eveline, who was born November 30, 1909. There were nine children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Peters, namely: Jennie, who married Arthur Williams and now lives in Wayne, Nebraska; Lewis, who makes his home in Louisa county; Annie, who is the wife of John Arthur, of Louisa county; Ruth, now Mrs. Evan H. Arthur; Richard, also of Louisa county; and Lizzie, Belle, Daniel and Mary, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Arthur takes a lively interest in fraternal organizations and is an honored member of the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen. Religiously he is connected with the Methodist church and politically his support is given to the republican party, in behalf of which he is an active worker. He is a good friend of education and is also a strong believer in cultivating social faculties, he and his wife dispensing a generous hospitality which attracts many of the best people of this part of the county.

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#### F. P. BROWN.

The agricultural interests of Louisa county find a worthy and successful representative in F. P. Brown, who is the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 4 and 5, Marshall township. His birth occurred in Pickaway county, Ohio, on the 15th of August, 1852, his parents being Isaac N. and Hester A. (Storks) Brown, the former a native of Circleville, Ohio, and the latter of Maryland. The mother came to this county in 1863, locating on a farm in Elliott township, where she spent the remainder of her life. She reared a family of three children.

F. P. Brown attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. Subsequently he rented a farm in Elliott township, devoting his attention to its operation for fifteen years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a tract of land in Elliott township, where he was actively engaged in the tilling of the soil for thirty-two years altogether. After disposing of his property in that township he purchased and located on a farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 4 and 5, Marshall township, which had already been brought under a high state of cultivation and on which he has resided to the present time. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle, hogs and horses, this branch of his business adding materially to his annual income.

On the 5th of September, 1875, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Julia B. Schultz, a native of Indiana and a daughter of John and Hester (Robinson) Schultz. Her father was born in France, while her mother's birth occurred in the Hoosier state. John Schultz, who served as sergeant of a company of Union soldiers during the Civil war, was killed at the battle of Shiloh. His widow subsequently removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, and in the '70s located in Oakville. She was the mother of three children. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have no children of their own but reared an adopted son, P. T. Brown, who assists our subject in the conduct of his farming interests.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Brown has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He has served as a school director and has ever been a staunch friend of the cause of education. Both he and his wife are consistent and devoted members of the Church of God. Mr. Brown's life has been such as to merit the respect of his fellowmen and by his honesty, uprightness and industry he has contributed much toward the upbuilding of the county in which he has made his home for almost a half century.

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#### WILLIAM N. KELLER.

A highly cultivated farm of one hundred and eighteen acres, situated on section 14, Morning Sun township, pays a glowing tribute to the labors of William N. Keller, who is the owner of this property. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, January 31, 1840, a son of George and Mary (McLean) Keller, who were natives of Germany, emigrating to America in their childhood days. They spent their married life in Ohio and there both departed this life. Their marriage was blessed with ten children, only three of whom are now living, namely: Mary F., the wife of James France, a resident of Knox county, Ohio; Adam, who makes his home in Indiana; and William N., of this review.

William N. Keller enjoyed such educational advantages as are offered by the common schools and the period of his boyhood and youth was spent under the parental roof. He gave his father the benefit of his services until he had reached mature years, and in 1861, the Civil war having been inaugurated, he offered his services to the government, becoming a member of Company H, Eighty-second Ohio Infantry. He remained at the front for three years and in the meantime took part in the battles of Bull Run, Pea Ridge, Winchester, Fredericksburg, and in other minor engagements. He was fortunate in that he never received even a scratch while doing duty at the front. He was mustered out at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after which he returned to his home in Knox county, Ohio, and for three years worked as a farm hand for others. At the end of that time, seeking the broader opportunities of the west, he came to Louisa county and worked as a farm hand here for several years. He eventually established a home of his own by his marriage, after which he located on



a tract of land which he rented for four years. During this period he saved a sum of money sufficient to invest in farm property and thus became owner of one hundred and eighteen acres on section 14, Morning Sun township. He has made the improvements on this place and it is today one of the attractive as well as cultivable tracts of this township. He carries on general farming but makes a specialty of raising and feeding hogs.

Mr. Keller was married to Miss Margaret D. Cunningham, who was born in Louisa county, March 14, 1854, a daughter of Condy and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Cunningham. The father was a native of Ireland, but the mother claims the state of Ohio as the place of her nativity. They located in Louisa county in 1843 and here spent their remaining years, the mother passing away in 1888, while the father, surviving for a few years, departed this life in September, 1893. They were the parents of four children, only two of whom are now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Keller have been born eight children: Ezra, who is living in the state of Washington; George, at home; Richard, a resident of Oregon; Charles, Lee, Grove and Marion, all at home; and Lena, deceased.

Mr. Keller always casts his vote for the candidates of the democratic party, but he has never sought nor held office for himself, preferring to devote his entire time to his private business affairs. He and his family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church. When on the battlefield Mr. Keller displayed the spirit of loyalty and determination and these characteristics have been strongly manifest throughout his entire life, for when he started out in the business world it was in a humble position, but he has overcome all obstacles and difficulties that have beset his path and today ranks among the men of prominence and influence in his locality.

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### JOSEPH M. DOTSON.

A veteran of the Civil war, Joseph M. Dotson is now living retired at Columbus Junction where he has made his home and has been favorably known for nearly forty years. He is a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, born February 21, 1837, a son of B. S. and Mary (Davidson) Dotson. The father was born in Maryland, but the mother was a native of England and emigrated to America in childhood, the families locating in Pennsylvania. They were married in the Keystone state and in 1844 Mr. Dotson arrived with his family in Des Moines county, Iowa. In 1849 he removed to Louisa county and located upon government land in Wapello township. Here he built a frame cottage of two rooms which was one of the first frame buildings of the county and was regarded as an object of great interest by the early settlers. The father and mother continued to live at the old homestead during the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of fourteen children, seven of whom survive, namely: Joseph M.; Sarah J., the wife of George Turner, of Washington; Mark, who makes his home in Louisa county; Harriet, now Mrs. E. Stevens, of



Wapello; Irene, a resident of Spokane, Washington; Oliver P., of Eldon, Iowa; and Eva, the wife of George Deal, of Wapello.

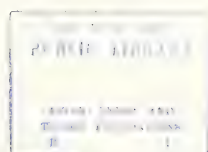
Joseph M. Dotson, of this review, came to Louisa county with his parents and continued at home until after reaching his majority. Upon the breaking out of the Civil war he responded to the call of President Lincoln for defenders of the Union and enlisted in Company K, Second Iowa Cavalry, in which he served continuously for four years and two months. He participated in several of the great battles of the war and in many minor engagements, passing through almost unscathed, as he received only a slight wound on the head during the entire period named. He was a good soldier and was always to be found at his post of duty. He was honorably mustered out of service at Davenport, Iowa, and returned to Louisa county, where he purchased seventy acres of land in Wapello township, and which he cultivated for two years. He then sold out and spent two years at Wapello, after which he rented a farm for a period of two years. In 1872 he located in Columbus Junction and entered the hotel business, which proved a successful venture. He gained an enviable reputation as a hotelkeeper on account of his pleasing manner and the generous accommodations available at his house and continued in the business for twenty years. He has since lived in honorable retirement, being the owner of a handsome residence and of other property in Columbus Junction.

In October, 1865, Mr. Dotson was married to Miss Amanda C. Van Horn and to them was born a daughter, Buena V., who is the wife of F. Abrams, of Columbus Junction. Mrs. Dotson departed this life in 1867, and in 1868 Mr. Dotson was married to Josephine W. Welch, a native of Indiana, who has proven to him a true and helpful companion. Mr. Dotson cast his first vote for John C. Fremont as president of the United States and he has ever since continued as a staunch supporter of the republican party. He served with general acceptance as mayor of Columbus Junction and also as a member of the town board. A valiant soldier in the time of his country's need, he has been an honorable, energetic and progressive citizen, and in the evening of his life he enjoys a comfortable home and the respect of a large circle of friends. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also with the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### WILLIAM M. McDILL.

Among the successful and progressive farmers of Port Louisa township, Louisa county, Iowa, should be named William M. McDill, the owner of one of the best improved places in this part of the county and a man of acknowledged integrity and high standing. He was born in the township where he now lives May 27, 1858, a son of Joseph B. and Martha (Ronald) McDill. The father was born near Charleston, South Carolina, and the mother in Fayette county,

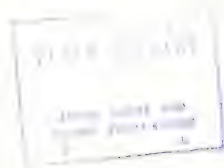




MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. DILL.



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH B. McDILL.



Indiana. On the paternal side the family is of Scotch-Irish descent and on the maternal side early ancestors in America settled in Vermont from Scotland. The parents of our subject were married in Louisa county, October 2, 1850, and two years later the father, began farming in Port Louisa township upon eighty acres which he had purchased. He soon afterward acquired eighty acres more and continued on this farm until 1867, when he disposed of it and bought two hundred acres on sections 11 and 12 in the same township. He became the owner of a beautiful farm of two hundred and eighty-eight acres, one hundred acres of which he brought to a high state of cultivation, the balance being in timber and pasture. He died in August, 1891, but the mother is still living and makes her home with the subject of this review. She has now arrived at the venerable age of eighty-six years. Previous to his death the father divided his farm among his three sons, two daughters having received their shares in cash.

There were six children in the family: John, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Mary Belle, the wife of Louis Agnew, of Pawnee City, Nebraska; William M., of this review; Chalmers R., who lives at Fort Morgan, Colorado; Florence E., born in 1864, who married William L. Curtis, of Columbus Junction, and died in 1897; and George R., who is now living on a part of the old homestead.

William M. McDill was reared under the favoring influences of a happy home and acquired his education in the district schools of Louisa county. He assisted his father on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age and then began working on his father's land on shares, so continuing until the division of the home place was made. Since that time he has operated his portion, which consists of one hundred acres. He has cleared away most of the timber and the air of neatness and order that pervades the place indicates that he gives to his work most thoughtful attention, and he is receiving liberal returns for time and labor expended. His farm is located on sections 11 and 12, Port Louisa township.

On the 26th of April, 1899, Mr. McDill was married to Miss Alice Agnew, who was born in Johnson county, Iowa, May 5, 1864, a daughter of William J. and Margaret (Whiteford) Agnew. Three children have come to bless this union: Elizabeth L., who was born December 28, 1890; Florence, born February 20, 1901; and Edna May, born October 11, 1902. The father of Mrs. McDill was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and the mother in Ireland. The latter came to America with her parents when she was three years of age and was one of a family of six children. Mr. Agnew also belonged to a family of the same size. They were married in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and later came to Johnson county, Iowa. In 1868 they removed to Nebraska and settled in Pawnee county. The father died October 14, 1871, and the mother in 1884. In their family were seven children: Margaret J., who died at the age of three years; William, who died at the age of one year; Martha Jane, who departed this life at the age of fourteen; Samuel, who is living at Walla Walla, Washington; Alice, now Mrs. William M. McDill; Wilson, who died at eleven years of age; and Sarah, who died at the age of eight years.

Mr. McDill and his estimable wife are consistent members of the United Presbyterian church, of which he has served as treasurer and trustee for twenty-five years past. In politics he is a staunch supporter of the republican party and for fifteen years he has filled the office of township trustee. He is a sincere friend of education and is now township school treasurer, a position he has occupied for fifteen years. The respect in which he is held by his neighbors is shown by the responsible positions he occupies and wherever he is known he is esteemed as a capable and progressive man who may be depended upon to accomplish whatever he undertakes.

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#### C. J. SCHAPER.

Through well directed business activity and enterprise C. J. Schaper has gained recognition as one of the prosperous farmers of Louisa county. He owns a valuable tract of land near Wapello and since his residence in this county his labors have not only contributed to his own prosperity but have proven effective forces in advancing the general welfare. Born in Stephenson county, Illinois, on the 19th of July, 1870, he is a son of Frederick and Amelia (Lutteroth) Schaper, natives of Germany. His father came to America at the age of thirty years, landing in Baltimore, Maryland, January 7, 1852, and from there he went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and later to Randolph county, Illinois. The following spring he settled in Ogle county, that state, and found employment in the Grand Detour Plow Factory, where he worked for four years. He subsequently removed to Loran township, Stephenson county, Illinois, where all of his children with one exception were born. He was a member of the German Methodist church and in politics was a republican. On the 4th of April, 1854, he was married in Oregon, Ogle county, Illinois, to Miss Amelia Lutteroth, who was a Catholic in religious faith. She was born in Germany, April 17, 1831, and came to America with her mother in the fall of 1851, landing in New York. After seven months spent in that city, she removed to Grand Detour, Illinois, with her brother and there met Mr. Schaper. He passed away in Stephenson county, Illinois, on the 27th of September, 1894, when seventy-three years of age; and the mother's death occurred on the 23d of June, 1898, when sixty-eight years old. In their family were nine children, as follows: Henry F., now deceased; John, of Stephenson county, Illinois; August, also of that county; Edith, the wife of Orville Nuckolls, of Pasadena, California; William, of Floyd county, Iowa; George I., a resident of Hancock county, Iowa; C. J., of this review; Rosie M., the wife of John Tanner, of Hancock county; and Lewis E., living with his brother, C. J. Schaper.

The life of C. J. Schaper has ever been that of the farmer and on the Illinois homestead he was reared to maturity, acquiring his education in the country schools near his home. He continued to give his father the benefit of his assistance in the work of the fields until the latter's death, when he took up the

management of the farm in connection with his brother Lewis E. Together they operated the place until the mother's death, after which they purchased the homestead, which they continued to cultivate for about three years. They sold that property in 1901, at which time they came to Iowa, locating in Louisa county. Here they purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres located near Wapello, upon which they have since carried on general farming and stock-raising. They have greatly developed this place, the neat appearance of which bespeaks a life of industry, enterprise and thrift on the part of its owners. They are progressive and alert, not afraid of work, and the care and labor which they have bestowed upon their fields have been rewarded by abundant harvests annually.

C. J. Schaper was married, on the 15th of March, 1900, to Miss Rosie Siegrist, who is one of a family of twelve children born to John and Marie (Scaugg) Siegrist, the others being: Mary, who married Alfred Timmons, of Floyd county, Iowa; Louisa, the widow of Andrew Immer, also of that county; Anna, residing in Floyd county; William, a twin brother of Rosie and a resident of Floyd county; John, deceased; Emma, who married William Burgmann, of Plattville, Wisconsin; Lena, a twin sister of Emma, now deceased; Lena, who married Amiel Buehler, of Whittier, California; Kate, the wife of Reynold Thurow, of Floyd county; Edith, who wedded William Klanges, also a resident of Floyd county; and Paulina, of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Schaper have three children, namely: Lillian A., born February 25, 1901; Chester A., born September 10, 1903; and Raymond C., born May 10, 1905.

The religious faith of Mr. Schaper is that of the German Methodist church, while in politics he votes with the republican party. He has held various minor township offices and he is an active and willing worker for the upbuilding and advancement of the county along many lines. He stands high in the regard of all who know him, for in every relation, whether in public, business or private life, he has exemplified the highest principles of manhood.

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#### E. C. ROLD.

A thoroughly capable and highly regarded young business man of Oakville is E. C. Rold, who for the past eight years has been identified with the commercial and industrial activities of this village. Mr. Rold was born in Warren county, this state, on the 2d of January, 1882, his parents being Christ and Mary Rold, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Rold emigrated to the United States in 1875, locating in Warren county, where they continue to reside. Ten children were born unto them, nine of whom are living.

Educated in the common schools of Warren county, E. C. Rold remained on the homestead assisting his father in its cultivation until he had attained his majority. For two years thereafter he worked as a farm hand, following which he learned the blacksmith's trade. He came to Oakville in 1904 and established



a shop which he has ever since been operating with constantly increasing success, as in addition to his work he carries a very good supply of machinery and farming implements. His business, which is conducted in a thoroughly modern and progressive manner, is constantly developing, as he possesses not only the faculty of winning patrons, but treats them with that courtesy and consideration which enables him to retain them.

Mr. Rold has never married and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Ever since attaining his majority he has voted the democratic ticket, but not aspiring to public honors or the emoluments of office he does not prominently participate in municipal affairs, although he always discharges his responsibilities as a citizen by casting his ballot on election day. Mr. Rold is regarded as one of the enterprising and promising younger members of the commercial circles of Oakville, whose future, gauged by his past achievements, is indicative of gratifying success.

#### EDWIN C. ROGERS, M. D.

The gratifying patronage which has been accorded Dr. Edwin C. Rogers in the practice of his profession in Wapello is an indication of the skill and ability which he has manifested in his chosen calling and the confidence placed in him by those who have come under his medical care. Born in Jersey county, Illinois, on the 1st of October, 1872, he is a son of S. W. and Harriett (McKinstry) Rogers, natives of Illinois. His parents came to Iowa in 1882, first locating in Lee county, while they now make their home in Keokuk, this state. Of their family of three children the subject of this review is the first in order of birth, the others being Flora and John W., both yet at home.

Dr. E. C. Rogers is indebted to the public-school system of Illinois for his early educational privileges, and at the age of seventeen years he entered business life on his own account. For five years he was employed in Chicago and during that period labored earnestly with the aim to acquire sufficient money to enable him to continue his education, for it was his desire to enter professional life. Consequently he applied himself with unfaltering industry and by careful expenditure was able to save enough to pursue a course at the Keokuk Medical College. He was graduated from that institution in 1898, immediately after which he opened an office in Cotter, Iowa, where he practiced for four years. He next followed his calling in Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained for two years, and then practiced at Columbus Junction for three years. In November, 1907, he located at Wapello, and although one of the more recent arrivals here, he has since built up a practice of gratifying proportions, his patronage increasing in volume and importance as his ability has become recognized. He is well versed in the theory of medicine and the practical experience which he has received has greatly added to his knowledge, making him a competent and efficient practitioner. Realizing fully the obligations that devolve upon him in his pro-

professional capacity, he performs all duties with a sense of conscientious obligation and has won favorable regard by reason of his skill and his personal worth.

On Christmas Day, 1896, Dr. Rogers was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Harrison, a daughter of Thomas C. and Mary (Fox) Harrison. Her father was born in Ohio and her mother of Knox county, Illinois. The parents came to Iowa at an early day and still survive, making their home at present in Keokuk, Iowa. In their family were three children. One son, Harrison E. Rogers, has blessed the home of Dr. Edwin C. Rogers and his wife, his birth occurring on the 19th of January, 1908.

Dr. Rogers is deeply interested in the questions and issues of the day, giving his support to the republican party, although he has never sought nor desired office for himself. He is well known in fraternal circles here, belonging to Lodge No. 5, A. F. & A. M., at Wapello; Blackhawk Lodge, No. 281, Knights of Pythias and to the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 6005, all at Wapello. From the first he has been successful in his profession, impressing all with whom he has come in contact with his trustworthy character, his earnestness, zeal and scrupulous regard for the ethics of his calling. He is skillful in diagnosis, sure in prescription, thoughtful and tactful in attendance and prompt in emergency, and is already taking his place among the town's representative physicians.

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### JOHN RUDLEY BRADY.

The late John Rudley Brady, who for more than forty-eight years was identified with the development of the natural resources of Louisa county, was born in Indiana on the 22d of January, 1820, a son of John and Rebecca (Rudley) Brady, who were natives of Ireland and America respectively. After the death of the mother the father married again. He conducted a distillery in Indianapolis and was accidentally drowned in the White river.

John R. Brady was reared and educated in his native state, but at the age of twenty-two years desiring to see more of the country he started westward, Iowa being his destination. He arrived in Louisa county in 1851 and here engaged in agricultural pursuits. Immediately following his marriage he purchased a farm on section 11, Marshall township, eighty-five acres of which is still in possession of his widow.

In July, 1858, Mr. Brady completed his arrangements for a home by his marriage to Miss Dolly Ann Avery, who was the first white girl born in Louisa county, her natal day being the 5th of August, 1838. Her parents were Solomon and Elmira (Elsworth) Avery, natives of New York state, who came to Louisa county in the early '30s, being among the very earliest settlers. Mr. Avery assisted in quelling the uprising of the Indians under Black Hawk. Upon his arrival in this county he entered a tract of government land, upon which he erected a log cabin with a thatched roof and dirt floor. Crude as it was it was his home until destroyed a week before the birth of Mrs. Brady, when Mr. Avery

sought shelter for himself and wife with the Kiowa Indians. They were given welcome and it was in a tepee of a member of that tribe that Mrs. Brady was born, the mother and babe being tended and cared for by the squaws. One of the now dearly prized possessions of Mrs. Brady is a picture of the old Indian chief Wapello, for whom the town was called. Her father made by hand the shingles which roofed the first house erected in the village. Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Avery, but only Mrs. Brady and Solomon, a resident of Wapello, are now living. The father and mother spent their last days in Iowa and were laid to rest in the cemetery of Wapello.

Unto the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Brady were born fifteen children, six of whom are living: Mary Ann, the wife of Ed Wilson, of this county; J. C., who is residing in Arkansas; and Frank, William and Robert, all living in Louisa county; and Dennis, who is with his mother and is operating the home farm.

Mr. Brady passed away on the 28th of June, 1899, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Wapello. His widow, who has spent her entire life in Louisa county, has many interesting recollections of the pioneer days which she relates in a most entertaining manner. She is one of the well known residents of Marshall township, whose prairies she has seen converted into fertile farms, while the tepee of the Indian has given way to the modern dwelling.

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#### IRA A. OATS.

The breeding of fine stock is one of the most important branches known in connection with farming and Ira A. Oats, of Louisa county, deserves great credit for what he is accomplishing in this direction. He was born in this county, May 18, 1872, a son of John W. and Isabel (Duncan) Oats, the former having been born in Indiana and the latter in Iowa. The father of our subject was for many years engaged in farming in Iowa. He retired at Columbus Junction in 1902 and died at that place in November, 1908. Mrs. Oats is still living and makes her home at Columbus Junction. There were six children in their family, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Maggie, who became the wife of Alba McBride, a farmer of Louisa county; Ira, of this review; Ada, who married J. D. Hamil, of Washington county; and Arnold D., who is now in attendance at the academy at Iowa City, Iowa.

Ira A. Oats possessed good advantages of education in the schools and later attended the high school, thus becoming well prepared for the responsibilities of an active and useful life. He assisted his father upon the home farm until twenty-two years of age and then began upon his own account by renting one hundred and eighty acres, which he cultivated to good advantage for seven years. About this time his father retired from active labor and the son moved to the home place and for five years was in charge of one hundred and ninety acres. He then assumed control of his father-in-law's place of one hundred and ten acres, but after one year he purchased one hundred and seventy-two

acres in Columbus City township, upon which he has made his home for the past three years. He is a fancier of fine stock and has given considerable attention to the breeding and raising of pure blooded animals. He makes a specialty of raising Shropshire sheep and full blooded Duroc Jersey hogs. He is now changing from shorthorn cattle to Hereford cattle, as he prefers the latter breed. By the application of keen discrimination and good judgment he has acquired a reputation as one of the reliable breeders of the county and there is a steady and increasing demand for animals from his farm.

On the 12th of December, 1894, Mr. Oats was married to Miss Gertrude Smyley, a daughter of Joseph Taylor and Ella (Orrist) Smyley. Mr. and Mrs. Smyley were the parents of two children: Gertrude, now Mrs. Ira A. Oats; and Robert, of Louisa county. Three children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Oats: Reuben A., who was born September 7, 1895; June V., born September 7, 1898; and Ruth V., born December 31, 1905.

Mr. Oats is a supporter of the democratic party and has served to the general satisfaction of the taxpayers as township clerk. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows and is also a valued member of the Dutch Reformed church. He has earned a place as one of the useful citizens of Louisa county. His life is controlled very largely by the desire to enhance the happiness of those with whom he is associated, and he therefore possesses in an unusual degree their confidence and respect.

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### WILLIAM MEYERHOLZ.

William Meyerholz, who has been engaged in general farming and stock-raising on his homestead in Jefferson township for the past thirty years, was born in Louisa county on the 1st of August, 1855. He is the eldest son of the late Henry and Elizabeth (Burchold) Meyerholz, natives of Germany, of whom more extended mention is made in the sketch of Fred Meyerholz, on another page of this volume.

William Meyerholz was reared under the parental roof, acquiring his education in the common schools of his native township. After laying aside his text-books he engaged with his father in the cultivation of the farm, remaining a member of the paternal household until he was twenty-six years of age. He then bought a portion of the old homestead, which he operated for eleven years prior to his marriage. He has made all of the improvements upon his property, in addition to which he has planted an orchard and many shade trees. He engages in general farming and has always made a specialty of raising and feeding stock for the market.

In 1892 Mr. Meyerholz was united in marriage to Miss Lena C. Deppe, who was born in Madison county, Indiana, on the 21st of April, 1866. She is a daughter of Conrad A. and Caroline C. (Tollman) Deppe, natives of Hanover, Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1843.

locating in Indiana. They were married in Cincinnati, Ohio, following which they settled upon a farm in Indiana, where they were residing when the father passed away in 1900. The mother is still living and continues to reside upon the old homestead. They were the parents of eight children.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyerholz affiliate with the Christian church, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which lodge he has filled all of the chairs, and he has also taken the first degree in Masonry. A republican in politics, he always gives his support to the candidates of that party and has served as school director and road supervisor. The entire fifty-six years of his life have been spent in this county and Jefferson township, where he was born, and in the growth and development of which he has always taken an active interest.

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### HON. ALEXANDER M. GARRETT.

On the streets of the enterprising little town of Letts, Iowa, there appears no figure better known than that of Hon. Alexander M. Garrett, who for many years has been one of the prominent and influential men in the business and political circles of Louisa county. The familiar name of "Dick," by which he is known to a large number of friends and acquaintances, is indicative of the popularity of the man and the affection in which he is held by those who have come in close contact with him.

A native of Louisa county, Iowa, he was born in Concord township, on a farm two and a half miles west of Letts, on the 31st of March, 1857, a son of Barton and Elizabeth (Finley) Garrett, natives of Floyd county, Kentucky, and Ohio respectively. The former came to Iowa in 1852 and the latter in 1839, her parents being numbered among the earliest of the pioneer settlers of Louisa county. After their marriage the father took up the occupation of farming, his first purchase of land constituting the nucleus of the present homestead. As the years passed he prospered and as success came to him he invested in more land until, at the time of his death, he was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation. He passed away on the 22d of November, 1910, having survived his wife, for forty years, her death occurring on the 5th of May, 1870. After her demise he was again married, in 1873, to Miss Susanna M. Dodder, a native of New Jersey, who came to Iowa in 1836, the family home being located near Grand View. By his first marriage Mr. Garrett became the father of four children, as follows: Alexander M., of this review; Ulric, of Letts; James M., residing in Kansas City, Missouri; and Barton, who passed away in 1867, at the age of two years. Unto the second union was born one son: Joseph H., who was born in 1874, and now resides upon and operates the old homestead farm.

Amid the busy activities and wholesome surroundings of rural life Alexander M. Garrett spent the period of his early life and in the district schools he ac-



*A. M. Garrett*





quired a good education. He assisted in the cultivation of the home farm when not busily occupied with his text-books and remained with his father until he was twenty-one years of age. Upon attaining his majority, he took up farming on his own account, in connection with a brother, with whom he has since been associated. Together they purchased three hundred and sixty eight acres in Concord township which they owned and operated for a number of years. Under their supervision this became a finely improved property and was known as one of the best stock farms in Louisa county, the brothers engaging extensively in the livestock business. Selling this place in 1900 they came to Letts and have since been associated in the ownership and operation of the Letts Grain Elevator. Mr. Garrett is also a heavy feeder and shipper of livestock, having handled more stock than any other man in Louisa county. He has been a feeder and shipper for thirty-four years, being one of the oldest shippers in the county, and is one of the best judges of stock in this part of the state, his opinions being accepted as authority in this connection. He has done much to stimulate the interest of others in this line of activity and his efforts have been effective forces in establishing and maintaining a high standard of stock in Louisa county.

Mr. Garrett was married, on the 8th of October, 1878, to Miss Laura S. Dill, who was born at Todd Town, now a part of Columbus Junction, Iowa, a daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth J. (Fowler) Dill. Both parents were born in Ohio, where they were reared and married in 1854. In the following year they came to Iowa, first locating at Todd Town, where they lived for four years, after which they removed to Fredonia, in Concord township, where their remaining days were spent. The father, who was a physician, followed his profession in that city for about twenty-four years, and also practiced for about four years previously in Todd Town. Mrs. Garrett was the younger of two daughters, her sister, Mary, being now the wife of John Conlin, a carpenter and contractor of Oneida, Kansas. In 1860 the mother passed away at the age of thirty-four years, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Fredonia. The father again married, about two years later, his second union being to Miss Mary Mickey, who was born in Louisa county, and to them were born two children: Bessie, the wife of A. M. Reynolds, of Chicago, Illinois; and Georgiana, who married W. M. Coats, of Hoxie, Arkansas. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Garrett have been born three children, namely: J. Bertram, born January 5, 1880, who is a high school graduate, belongs to the Masonic fraternity, and carries on farming in Louisa county; Elizabeth J., born January 20, 1881, who graduated from high school and also had the benefit of a good musical education and who is now the wife of E. R. McCormick, cashier of the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts; and A. May, who was born on the 25th of January, 1883, and became the wife of F. S. Barnes, cashier of the First National Bank of Marcus, Iowa, by whom she has one daughter, Laura E. The youngest daughter after her graduation from the Letts high school pursued a course of study at Drake University at Des Moines, and taught school for several years previous to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett are also rearing Miss Mamie E. Garrett, a daughter of J. M. Garrett, a brother of our subject, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, on the 5th of



May, 1897. She lost her mother during her infancy and will remain under the guardianship of her uncle until she becomes of age. She is now attending school in Kansas City and is making a specialty of the study of music.

Although the business affairs of Mr. Garrett have taken much of his time and attention, and have demanded unremitting endeavor on his part, he has nevertheless found time to participate in other interests and today he is ranked among the political leaders of Louisa county, being a staunch Bryan democrat. He is at present serving as a member of the city council of Letts, which position he has occupied for eight years. He is now serving also his district as senator from Louisa and Muscatine counties, ably and capably representing his fellow citizens in the upper house, being elected for a term of four years. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and both are well known in fraternal circles here, Mr. Garrett belonging to Triangular Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., of Letts; Composite Chapter, No. 17, R. A. M., of Columbus Junction; and De Molay Commandery, No. 1, K. T., of Muscatine, Iowa. He has also crossed the sands of the desert with the nobles of Kaaba Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Davenport. Mrs. Garrett belongs to the Fraternal Aid Association and the Royal Neighbors of America, both of Letts, also to the Order of the Eastern Star, of this city, of which she is worthy matron, and likewise holds membership in the Legislative Ladies' League of Des Moines.

The true measure of success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country," there is particular interest attaching to the career of Mr. Garrett. For, spending his entire life within the borders of his native county he has not only gained distinction for himself because of his successful activity along business and political lines, but also for the prominent place which he has won for himself in the respect, confidence and love of his fellow citizens.

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#### ROBERT W. NEWELL.

Two hundred acres of section 24, Wapello township, does full credit to the agricultural skill of Robert W. Newell, who was born on the homestead where he is now living on the 15th of February, 1861. He is a son of Thomas and Sarah J. (Mock) Newell, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Pennsylvania. Ten children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Newell, the order of their birth being as follows: Elizabeth, the deceased wife of George Hensley, who is also deceased; Josephine, who married Thomas Wiser, of Adair county, this state; Hugh T., who is a resident of the same county; Samuel P., who is living in the vicinity of Denver, Colorado; Robert W., the subject of our sketch; Benjamin, also living near Denver; Ida M., William, who is an agriculturist in this county; Vira and Abe, both residents of Denver, Colorado. The father

passed away on the 27th of September, 1899, at the age of seventy six, but the mother survived until the 24th of April, 1905, her demise occurring at the age of seventy-two years.

After completing the course of the public schools at Louisa county, Robert W. Newell attended Howe's Academy at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He subsequently taught school for three or four years. At the expiration of that period, however, he decided to adopt farming for his life vocation and bought eighty acres of land adjoining the old homestead. After the death of his parents he bought the interest of the other heirs in the old farm and now owns two hundred acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. He engages in general farming but makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock, in which venture he has met with lucrative returns.

On the 29th of February, 1888, Mr. Newell was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Hannan, a daughter of William and Louisa Hannan, who were the parents of the following children: Walter C., a resident of Columbus Junction; Jefferson, who is living in Kansas; Annie, who married Elmer Smith, of Burlington; John, now living in Moline; Minnie, the wife of Robert W. Newell, who passed away on the 16th of April, 1892; Mary, who married William Hill, of Burlington; Edward, also of Burlington; Loudon, who is living in Moline; Dora, who is deceased; and Edith, who married Alfred Pilling, of Avery. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Newell three children were born, but two, however, of which survive, Mina L., the youngest, having passed away in infancy. Those surviving are: Grace, who is at home; and H. Stanley, who is teaching the home school.

Mr. Newell and his children are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political allegiance he gives to the republican party. He has always taken an active interest in all township affairs and has held various minor offices, the responsibilities of which he has discharged to the credit of his constituency. A man of broad, general information, Mr. Newell is not only a competent and successful agriculturist and stockman, but a good business man, whose success must be largely attributed to his judgment and foresight as well as executive ability.

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#### CONRAD OHLWEIN.

Conrad Ohlwein, who has lived retired at Oakville since March, 1908, was successfully engaged in the clothing business at that place for a number of years. His birth occurred in Germany on the 26th of October, 1844, his parents being Henry and Elizabeth (Kroch) Ohlwein, both of whom are deceased. The father passed away in Germany and the mother was called to her final rest while a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Unto them were born four children, as follows: Henry, now living in Highland Park, Illinois; Conrad, of this review; John, who died in Chicago; and Elizabeth, who passed away in infancy.

Conrad Ohlwein spent the first twenty-four years of his life in the fatherland, there learning the tailor's trade. In 1868 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Chicago, where he worked at his trade for about fifteen years. Subsequently he removed to New Boston, Illinois, there residing for about twelve years. On the expiration of that period he came to Oakville, Iowa, here being actively engaged in the clothing business until the time of his retirement on the 1st of March, 1908, when he sold out to his son and son-in-law. Twelve years ago he lost everything because of a disastrous fire which destroyed the building in which he was conducting business and in which he was also living at that time. Nothing daunted, however, he set resolutely to work and soon retrieved his lost possessions. He now owns two lots in Oakville and also the home which he erected thereon.

On the 29th of July, 1869, Mr. Ohlwein was united in marriage to Miss Catharine Ohlwein, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Zeibert) Ohlwein. She was one of a family of five children, the others being as follows: John, who is deceased; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Henry Ohlwein and resides in Germany; and Henry and Adam, who also make their home in Germany. Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight children, as follows: Elizabeth, who has passed away; Annie, the wife of Lee Hunt, of New Boston, Illinois; John, also living in New Boston; Henry, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mary, the wife of Charles Creaton, of Oakville, Iowa; Lizzie, the wife of Fred Pulver, of Oakville, Iowa; Edward Conrad, who likewise makes his home at Oakville, and one who died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Ohlwein is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, while fraternally he is identified with the Masons. Coming to the new world in early manhood, he eagerly embraced the opportunities afforded in a land unhampered by caste or class and steadily worked his way upward to a position among the prosperous and esteemed citizens of his community. In August, 1908, Mr. Ohlwein made a trip to Europe, visiting his old home and many points of interest. He met many old friends and school mates of his boyhood days as well as relatives. While he enjoyed his trip very much, especially seeing again the land of his birth, he was glad to return to his home in America.

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#### MERIT J. DEIHL.

There is no movement formulated in Wapello township for the benefit of the community along lines of substantial upbuilding that does not receive the indorsement of Merit J. Deihl, and his labors have always been a cooperant factor in the work of general improvement. He is now engaged in agricultural pursuits and few farmers of Louisa county have achieved more substantial success along those lines. A native of Iowa, he was born on the old home-

stead in this county on the 16th of March, 1850, a son of John and Margaret (Jamison) Deihl. The father, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 21st of November, 1808, was long one of the most extensive farmers and land owners of his locality. In 1831 he left his native state and went to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he was engaged in teaching school for a few years, and in the spring of 1836 he arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, here entering a claim of one hundred and sixty acres. Something of the success which attended his efforts in the agricultural field is indicated by the fact that with the passing years he was able to add to his original purchase until at the time of his death his estate consisted of twelve hundred acres of valuable land, all under an excellent state of cultivation. In 1845 he returned to the state of his nativity on a visit, going by way of Chicago and making the journey on horseback, riding one horse and leading another. In 1850 he was married to Mrs. George Johnson, who in her maidenhood was Miss Margaret Jamison, and unto them were born six children, as follows: John W., who passed away in infancy; Elizabeth; Merit J., of this review; George R.; and Lydia and Emma A., both deceased.

Fortunate in having his lines of life cast amid the healthful and wholesome scenes and environment of rural life, Merit J. Deihl spent the period of his boyhood and youth upon the old homestead, acquiring his education in the country schools of the neighborhood and when not busy with his text books, assisting in the work of the fields. His practical training was thorough and comprehensive, for he was early made familiar with the tasks that usually fall to the lot of the country lad, while with the passing years, as his strength and experience increased his duties became more important and onerous. Upon attaining man's estate he wisely chose as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared and throughout the intervening period he has given his undivided attention to general agricultural pursuits. He is now the owner of a valuable farm of six hundred and ninety-six acres, located on sections 13, 14, 23 and 24. This is one of the largest farms in this part of the county and everything about it is indicative of his careful supervision, his practical methods and his progressive spirit. He has built a comfortable and attractive residence, large barns and substantial outbuildings and no equipment or accessory which goes to make up a model farm is lacking. In connection with his general farming he also has stock-raising interests and the enterprise, close application and keen business ability which he has ever manifested in the conduct of his business affairs have been the salient elements in the attainment of a success which ranks him among the most substantial and representative farmers of the township.

Mr. Deihl was married on the 17th of April, 1879, to Miss Clara Brogan, whose birth occurred on the 26th of November, 1859. She was the second in order of birth in a family of six children born unto James and Eliza Jane (Van Horn) Brogan, the others being: Elius L., who passed away in infancy; Elmeda, the deceased wife of George Coffine, of Thomas county, Kansas; George W., of Hamilton county, Iowa; Elmer E., of Polk county, Nebraska; and Charles, who also died in infancy. Three children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Deihl, as follows: Emma Adell, who was born on the 25th of March,

1886; Samuel J., born February 2, 1883; and Alma Ola, born October 19, 1885. In his religious belief Mr. Deihl is a Methodist, while his political support is given to the republican party. He has served as township assessor, but aside from that position he has never sought nor held public office. Unusually broad-minded and liberal in his views, he has ever given proof of the fact that the term citizenship is to him no mere idle word, for no measure or movement having to do with the upbuilding and development of the community in which he resides seeks his aid in vain, and he is a generous supporter of all worthy enterprises. He is greatly respected and esteemed by all who know him and the position which he occupies today among his fellowmen is in contradistinction to the old adage that "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country."

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### THOMAS ROSS.

One of the well improved and capably supervised farms of Marshall township is the homestead of Thomas Ross, who has been residing there continuously for nearly fifty years. He is a native of Brown county, Ohio, his natal day being the 17th of January, 1842, and his parents John and Deborah (Ireton) Ross. The parents, who were also born in the Buckeye state migrated to Iowa in 1851, purchasing a farm in Louisa county. They continued to reside upon this place until the father passed away in 1882. The mother survived him for five years thereafter, her demise occurring in 1887. Unto Mr. and Mrs. John Ross were born seven children: M. E., who is now residing in Morning Sun; Missouri, who is the widow of J. H. Irum, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; J. Q., who is a resident of Texas; Mary, the wife of Louis Rodrick, of Mason City, Iowa; Thomas, our subject; and two who are deceased.

Thomas Ross, who was nine years of age when his parents located in Iowa, began his education in the district schools of Ohio. This was later supplemented by his attending the common schools of Iowa, during which time he also assisted his father in the operation of the homestead. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, then began farming as a renter on his present homestead, which contains two hundred acres of land located on sections 7 and 8, Marshall township. During his ownership Mr. Ross has effected many improvements in his property, having erected some fine buildings, in addition to which he has also planted a nice grove. His fields which are carefully drained and substantially fenced, are thoroughly cultivated, yielding abundant harvests in return for the labor expended on them.

Mr. Ross and Miss Ella Simons, a daughter of Louis and Nancy Simons, were united in marriage in 1871 in this county. Mrs. Ross was born in this county, but is of German extraction, her parents having come from the fatherland to America. They were among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, in which state they passed their final days. There were three children born of their marriage. Thirteen children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ross, as follows: Nora, the

wife of A. J. Cox, of Louisa county; Arthur E., who is living in Henry county; Herman E., also a resident of Henry county; Clara, the wife of Oscar Linden, of Des Moines, Iowa; Nelson, who is residing in Henry county, Iowa; John E. and Chester, who are of the same county; and Carl, Crawdon, Jessie and Laura, all of whom are living at home; and two who are deceased.

The religious views of Mr. and Mrs. Ross are manifested through their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and he votes with the republicans. Despite the exactions of his extensive farming interests Mr. Ross has always found time to fulfil his civic responsibilities and has efficiently served his township in the capacity of both trustee and school director.

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### GEORGE W. ORR.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war now living in Louisa county is George W. Orr, who for nineteen years past has made his home upon a farm in Columbus City township. He is a descendant of good American ancestry and is a native of Des Moines county, Iowa, where he was born June 2, 1846, a son of Jefferson P. and Parthena (Trent) Orr. The father was a native of Virginia and the mother of Kentucky. They removed to Illinois in 1826 and Mr. Orr engaged in farming for ten years near Springfield. In April, 1836, he came with his family to Iowa and located in Des Moines county, where he continued until his death, which occurred in March, 1864. The mother was called away July 30, 1888. There were eleven children in their family: John William, who was born in Illinois and is now deceased; Mary, the wife of William Archer, of California; Elvira, who married Jonas Sames of Jones county, Iowa, and is now deceased; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Lewis Bishop, of Des Moines county, and is also deceased; Paulina, the widow of William Ping, of Des Moines county; Sims, deceased; Martin, who was born in Des Moines county in 1837 and now lives in Clarke county, Iowa; James and Anderson, both of whom are deceased; Thomas, who makes his home in Montana; and George W. John William, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Orr, enlisted in the Civil war as a member of the Seventh Missouri Infantry, a regiment which it is claimed never took any prisoners. He was a man of remarkable energy and ability and advanced rapidly in the army, gaining the rank of brigadier general, a position to which he was advanced during the Arkansas campaign. He is now deceased.

George W. Orr received his preliminary education in the district schools of Des Moines county and in 1864, being then about eighteen years of age, enlisted in Company F., Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He participated in the battle of Memphis and was taken prisoner, but he and his comrades were allowed their freedom, as their captors had no opportunity to convey them away. He was mustered out of service at Keokuk, Iowa, September 15, 1864. On account of exposure while in the army his health was seriously impaired and he

never regained his early vigor. He was confined in a hospital for over a year and is now drawing a pension from the United States government. After receiving his honorable discharge from the army he returned to Des Moines county where he continued from 1869 to 1880. In 1892 he came to Louisa county and purchased one hundred and fifty-seven acres of land in Columbus City township, where he established his homestead.

On the 26th of November, 1868, Mr. Orr was married to Miss Catherine Hines and to this union two children were born. Carrie Izona, the elder of the children, became the wife of Frank Ulm, of Louisa county, and is the mother of one child, Mary Leona, who was born September 24, 1897. Lizzie Irue married J. A. Miller, of Louisa county, and they became the parents of two children: George Connell, who died at the age of twenty-two months; and Frank Darrow, who was born April 14, 1911.

Mr. Orr was called upon to mourn the loss of his beloved wife September 11, 1901. She was a woman of many noble traits of heart and mind who considered no sacrifice too great if it added to the comfort or happiness of her husband or children. Mr. Orr is an invalid and his two daughters and their families make their home with him, the sons-in-law having charge of the farm. Politically he adheres to the republican party, of which he has been a supporter ever since he cast his first ballot. In religious belief he is identified with the Baptist church. As a soldier for the Union he attempted bravely to perform his duty and in times of peace he is always to be found in the line of progress. He has passed through many vicissitudes in the course of a life that has been attended with an unusual amount of physical suffering, but his courage has never failed and he is justly entitled to the respect in which he is held by his neighbors and friends in Louisa county.

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## I. S. SIVERLY.

I. S. Siverly who lives upon a well cultivated farm in Louisa county, which he acquired through his energy and good management, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Corn Planter township, Venango county, May 24, 1836, a son of E. W. and Nancy (Jordan) Siverly, the former of whom was born in New York state and the latter in Brown county, Ohio. The parents were married in the east and the family came to Iowa in 1838, locating on a farm in Louisa county. Here E. W. Siverly built a little log cabin, which he covered with a clapboard roof and provided with a puncheon floor and a stick chimney, the door being opened, according to the custom of the pioneers, with a latch-string. Here the family lived about ten years but in 1847, Mr. Siverly having prospered as a farmer, he located on two hundred and fifteen acres, a part of which is in Wapello and part in Marshall townships. The parents both died on this farm. Fifteen children were born to them of whom eight are now living, namely: I. S.; L. L., of Ringgold county, Iowa; George, of Johnson county;









MR. AND MRS. E. W. SIVERLY



MR. AND MRS. I. S. SEVERLY



E. W., Jr., who is a resident of Wapello; Frank, who makes his home in Arizona; Augusta, who is now the widow of F. F. Curran, of Morning Sun, Iowa; Amanda, the widow of George Smith, of San Francisco, California; and Eva, who married A. E. Baldridge, of Wapello.

I. S. Siverly received limited advantages of education as he grew to manhood and continued upon the home farm until he enlisted in the Civil war as a member of Company F, Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles of Prairie Grove, Vicksburg, Sterling Farm, Mobile and Meadowville. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates while on the Red River expedition and was confined for ten months at Tyler, Texas, at the end of which time he was exchanged. He returned to his regiment and was present at a number of hard fought battles and engagements of the Army of the Gulf. In 1865 he was honorably discharged at Mobile, Alabama, and returned to Louisa county, later purchasing the old family homestead, which he has greatly improved. He has been very successful not only as an agriculturist but in handling live stock and is known as one of the thorough and prosperous farmers of his locality.

On the 10th of January, 1867, Mr. Siverly was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Rice, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Israel and Lucinda (Ayers) Rice. By this union nine children were born, seven of whom are now living. John R., who now makes his home in Linn county, Iowa, wedded Mary Buck, now deceased, and for his second wife married Minnie Sutzin. By his first union there are two children, Hazel and Ruth. Robert E., a resident of Louisa county, married Emma Casten and they have four children, Guy W., Jessie Marie, Fred and Pauline. William S., of Laclede county, Missouri, married Ida Myers and after her death wedded Bessie Nurse. He has one child, Violet, by his first marriage, and another, Ernest L., by the second. James A., who resides in South Dakota, married Cora Wilson and they have one child, Arthene. Georgia M. is the wife of Arthur Wilson, of Louisa county, and they have four children, Roxey, Mary, Harold and Verne. Ernest L., of Morning Sun, married Mearle Losey. Harry H., a resident of Burlington, completes the family. The mother of these children died April 18, 1896, and was laid to rest in the Rice cemetery.

Mr. Siverly was again married October 30, 1901, his second union being with Mrs. Rachel Boorn, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Lafayette and Emma (Rice) Boorn. Her father is now living in Wapello but her mother is deceased. They were both natives of New York state. By her first husband Mrs. Siverly had one daughter, Jessie Marie, who was born April 28, 1895. Mr. Siverly has two grand-children living with him: Hazel, who was born January 19, 1902; and Ruth, born October 18, 1905. They are the daughters of John Siverly, the eldest son, and since the death of their mother have made their home with their grandfather.

In politics Mr. Siverly has since reaching manhood voted in support of the principles and candidates of the republican party. He has served very efficiently as township trustee and as school director but has never aspired to the honors

of political office, as his interests have been centered on his farm. He is now about seventy-five years of age and can look back over many years of usefulness, in the course of which he secured a competency that enables him to enjoy the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He fully deserves the respect in which he is held by the people of Louisa county.

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### JOHN K. BROWN.

John K. Brown, now deceased, was born near Freeport, in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 30th of May, 1839, a son of James K. and Mary (Dryden) Brown, also natives of the Buckeye state. The parents came to Iowa in September, 1853, locating in Louisa county on the farm which is now the home of our subject's widow and which remained their place of residence until their deaths. In their family were seven children but only one now survives, Josephine, who married John Woodruff, now of Arkansas.

No event of special importance came to vary the routine of life for John K. Brown during the period of his boyhood and youth, which was passed on the old homestead farm, and under the direction of his father he received thorough training, which well qualified him for the successful conduct of a farm of his own when he took up agricultural pursuits as a life work. For a number of years he operated the old homestead farm and the prosperity which attended his efforts is an indication that his choice of a vocation was a wise one. He carefully studied the soil and climatic conditions, practiced rotation of crops and in the management of his affairs pursued practical and progressive methods, and his close application and the care which he bestowed upon his fields were rewarded by abundant annual harvests.

On the 2d of October, 1861, in Louisa county, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Ellenor Edwards, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, December 28, 1843, a daughter of Hugh and Ellen (Williams) Edwards. Her parents were born, reared and married in Wales and had three children on their emigration to America in 1840. It was in 1858 that the family took up their abode in Morning Sun township, Louisa county, Iowa, where the father died February 13, 1893, and the mother passed away March 29, 1899. In their family were twelve children, seven of whom are yet living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born six children, as follows: Ora A., who married Albert H. Bozman, of Louisa county; Dora E., the wife of Lee Marshall, a land and mine owner of Alaska; Hugh L., a resident of Henry county, Iowa; Laura A., at home; Albert S., of Idaho; and Bert D., also at home.

On the 1st of March, 1904, Mr. Brown was called to his final rest, his remains being interred at Elmwood cemetery, and with his passing Morning Sun township lost one of its well known and highly respected citizens. His political support was given the men and measures of the republican party and he took quite an active interest in public affairs, never withholding his aid from

any movement calculated to advance the general welfare of the community in which he lived. He was a man of exceptionally good business ability and sound judgment and his advice was frequently sought by his neighbors and friends. In 1867 he united with the Presbyterian church and throughout the remainder of his life continued one of its most ardent workers and liberal supporters. He was charitable almost to a fault and no one in distress or need was ever refused his assistance. To such men as Mr. Brown is due the remarkable development and growth of the grand old state of Iowa and the advancement and prosperity of its people.

Mrs. Brown now resides on the old homestead and is the owner of one hundred and seventy-four acres of land on section 15, 16 and 21, Morning Sun township. This constitutes a well improved and valuable farm, to the operation of which she gives her attention, and in its management she has displayed unusual business ability and sound judgment. She is a member of the Presbyterian church and in its work she is deeply and helpfully interested. She is a lady of many excellent traits of heart and mind and is held in high esteem by friends and neighbors alike.

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#### L. W. HUFF.

At the advanced age of seventy-nine years L. W. Huff is now living retired in a comfortable home at Columbus City, having by his industry and good business judgment accumulated a competence. His residence is located on five acres of ground, beautifully shaded, and which is one of the attractive spots of the city. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born September 14, 1831, a son of John and Anna (Eisenhart) Huff. The parents were both born in the Keystone state and there passed their entire lives. Of the eight children in their family three are still living.

L. W. Huff was reared at home and acquired a common school education. He continued with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age and then for two years served as agent for a railroad. Having given up this position he purchased a boat which he operated on the Pennsylvania canal, then an important highway of commerce in the state. An experience of two years as a boatman proved sufficient and after disposing of his boat he engaged in farming in his native state.

In 1871, at the age of forty, believing that the great west presented a more favorable field for agriculture and stock-raising than he perceived in Pennsylvania, he removed to Louisa county, Iowa, and purchased two hundred and fifty acres of land in Columbus City township. He made his home upon this place for more than twenty-five years, engaging quite extensively in general farming, but devoting special attention to raising and feeding stock for the market. Upon his farm was located the county station for the agricultural department, whose headquarters are at Washington, D. C., and many improved

methods tested at this place have been successfully applied in other parts of the county. For sixteen years Mr. Huff was a member of the board of directors of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction, and always discharged his duties in such a way as to meet the approval of the stockholders and officers of the bank.

On the 14th of February, 1854, Mr. Huff was married in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, to Miss Anna S. Hipple, a daughter of Frederick and Mary B. Hipple, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Nine children were born to this union, six of whom survive, namely: Anna, who is now the wife of Henry Cutcomb, of Louisa county; John, also of Louisa county; Harry, who makes his home in Dallas county; Elmer, of Louisa county; Agnes, who is the wife of J. M. Harris, of Columbus Junction; Mamie, who married Orville Sipe, of Cedar Rapids. For forty-four years Mr. Huff and his wife traveled life's pathway together and then, on July 15, 1898, he was deprived by death of the presence and companionship of one who had been to him indeed a true friend and counselor. Her remains were interred in the cemetery at Columbus City.

Mr. Huff is a consistent member of the United Presbyterian church, as was his wife, and in the various relations of life he has ever striven to apply the principles of the Golden Rule, thus gaining the respect and confidence of all with whom he has associated. Politically he gives his support to the republican party and has served in township offices. He began his business career as a young man with nothing to rely upon except his own indomitable courage and a good constitution which he inherited from sturdy ancestry. As the years passed he became in a large degree financially independent and it is to his credit that he never sought to advance his own interest to the injury of others. Of him it may be said that he has always been upright and progressive, never failing to be true to any responsibility intrusted to his charge, and therefore he truly merits the esteem of the entire community.

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#### HON. JAMES M. BROCKWAY.

A highly successful agriculturist, with extensive landed interests in Louisa county, is the Hon. James M. Brockway, who is engaged in the cultivation of one of the fine farms of Grand View township, but not only business interests claim his attention for public affairs also profit by his practical and progressive ideas and cooperation, and at the present time he is representing his district in the state legislature. He was born in Washington county, Iowa, on the 22d of January, 1879, and is a son of E. Frank and Rowena (Letts) Brockway. Extended mention of the father, who was long one of the prominent citizens of this part of Iowa, is made on another page of this work.

In the acquirement of his early education James M. Brockway attended the common schools of Washington county, following which he was graduated

from the State University at Iowa City. Having been born and reared on a farm, he liked the independent, free out-door life, and decided to adopt agriculture for his life vocation. With this object in view he pursued a course in the agricultural department of the Iowa State College at Ames, considering that farming as well as any other vocation requires special study if the best results are to be obtained. After the completion of his education Mr. Brockway engaged with his father in the cultivation of the homestead until the latter's demise. He now has the entire control and management of his father's estate, which has never been divided, and is continuing the operation of the farm.

On the 12th of October, 1910, Mr. Brockway was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Horton, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa. Mrs. Brockway is a daughter of Colonel C. C. and Belle (Ogilvie) Horton, who were married in Muscatine, of which town Mrs. Horton is a native. They subsequently located on a farm in that county, which Colonel Horton cultivated for fifteen years. He was in the government pension service until 1897, when he took charge of the Old Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, and at the present time continues to be chief officer of that institution. Four children were born of the union of Colonel and Mrs. Horton, as follows: Lisle and Frank, who have a large sheep ranch in Wyoming, where they are also conducting a bank; Mary M., now Mrs. Brockway; and Bertha, who has a college education, living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brockway hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political allegiance he gives to the republican party. He takes an active interest in governmental affairs and at the present time is representing his county in the state assembly. He is proving one of the active members of the house and is now serving on the following committees: ways and means, board of control, roads and highways, railroads and transportation, public accounting, public lands, the suppression of intemperance and drainage; and is chairman of the committee on animal industry. Mr. Brockway is one of the enterprising and capable young men of the county, whose future in both public and private affairs seems most promising.

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#### MOSES T. WATERHOUSE.

The late Moses T. Waterhouse was born in Ohio on the 14th of February, 1836, and was a son of Charles and Jane Waterhouse, natives of the same state. The parents migrated to Iowa during the pioneer days, first locating in Des Moines county, where the mother passed away. The father subsequently removed to Louisa county where he bought a farm, and upon which he was residing at the time of his demise. Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse were the parents of eleven children.

Moses T. Waterhouse, who was still quite young when his parents located in Iowa, acquired his education in the common schools. He was always engaged in agricultural pursuits and was living on his farm at the time of his death.



Following the demise of his parents he purchased from the other heirs their interest in the old homestead, upon a portion of which the town of Oakville now stands.

In Des Moines county Mr. Waterhouse married Miss Alice M. Bell, a native of Hamilton county, Ohio, and a daughter of William M. and Maria L. (Stout) Bell, who located in that county in the early days, later coming to Louisa county, where both parents passed away. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are surviving. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse were born eleven children: William T., James O., and John M., all of whom are residents of Oakville; Daisy B., who married George W. Campbell, of Louisa county; Ura M., the wife of James A. Duncan, of this county; Jacob G., who is living in Oakville; Ralph R., who is still at home; Nellie M., the wife of G. H. Williams, of Oakville; Violet E., who married Oscar Swanson, of Des Moines county; and Raymond P. and Elva M., both of whom are at home. Mr. Waterhouse passed away on the 8th of February, 1891, and was laid to rest in the Creighton cemetery.

Mrs. Waterhouse still owns one hundred and five acres of the old homestead, located on section 23, Elliott township, where she resides. She has many friends among the people of the community, to whom she has endeared herself by her kindly spirit and neighborly offices.

### SAMUEL DOTSON.

Samuel Dotson, an enterprising and progressive business man of Wapello, is numbered among Louisa county's native sons, his birth here having occurred on the 25th of March, 1858. His parents, David and Mary (Jackman) Dotson, were born and reared in Pennsylvania, but resided for many years in Louisa county. They are now deceased, the father passing away at the age of eighty-one years and the mother when seventy-nine years old. In their family were eight children, as follows: John, now deceased; Basil, of Nebraska; William, who has likewise passed away; O. Ella, who married Lafe Packwood, of Nebraska; Nancy Jane, deceased; Samuel, of this review; Mattie K., at home; and George W., a resident of Wapello township.

Samuel Dotson was reared to farm life, acquiring his education in the country schools, and remained with his parents until after attaining his majority, assisting in the work of the fields and thereby gaining a thorough and practical knowledge of agriculture. When twenty-two years old he took up the carpenter's trade and since that time has divided his attention between that occupation and general agricultural pursuits. His home is located on a tract of fourteen acres, all of which is under cultivation and upon which he raises good crops, and he is also interested in Texas land, being the owner of ten lots in that state. In his trade he is proving himself capable and efficient, doing all kinds of general

carpentering work, and in the conduct of both branches of his business he is meeting with gratifying results.

Mr. Dotson was married, on the 3d of February, 1909, to Mrs. Nellie E. (Brady) Allen, of Louisa county, who by her former marriage has two children, Roy and Samuel G., the latter four years old. By her marriage to Mr. Dotson she has become the mother of a daughter, Mary Evelena, one and a half years old. The religious faith of Mr. Dotson is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, and he also is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He gives his political support to the republican party and has held several minor township offices, including that of trustee, the duties of which he has ever performed in a most faithful, efficient and satisfactory manner. His life has been one of well directed activity and intelligent effort, resulting in the attainment of a fair measure of success, and wherever he is known he is honored by reason of his genuine worth and high personal character.

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#### E. K. GABRIEL.

Among the landowners of Columbus City township who have reflected credit upon farming pursuits and are entitled to mention in a history of Louisa county is E. K. Gabriel. A native of Iowa, he was born in Muscatine county, October 30, 1853, his parents being Conrad and Susan (Kegg) Gabriel. The father was born in Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, and the mother in Pennsylvania. He arrived in America in his boyhood and was one of the early settlers of Muscatine county. His wife died in that county and later Mr. Gabriel moved to Louisa county, where he purchased a farm upon which he spent the remainder of his life. There were six children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel, four of whom survive.

E. K. Gabriel, of this review, attended the district schools and in his boyhood and youth assisted in work upon the home farm. He remained with his father until arriving at maturity and then rented a place upon his own account for four years. In 1881 he purchased sixty acres in Columbus City township and, as his resources multiplied he increased his holdings until eventually he became the owner of two hundred and twenty-four acres, constituting a very valuable and desirable property. The farm is on section 12 and annually yields abundant harvests in response to the care and labor expended upon it. Mr. Gabriel has been very successful as a stock-raiser and in all branches of his business has shown a foresight and ability that seldom fail to produce handsome returns. He is the owner of a fine residence in Columbus City.

On March 5, 1876 Mr. Gabriel was married to Miss C. A. Bretz, who was born in Louisa county, a daughter of Peter and Cathrine (Cutkomp) Bretz, both of whom were born in Germany. Mr. Bretz settled upon a farm in Louisa county, about 1855, where he continued until about 1895, when he retired to

Columbus City, Iowa, where he resided until his death, which occurred February 3, 1903. The mother is still living and makes her home in Columbus City. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel, namely: L. R., who lives in Louisa county; C. O., who is now making his home in the state of Washington; Lydia G., who is deceased; and R. O. and C. E., both of whom are at home.

Mr. Gabriel is a supporter of the republican party but not in the sense of being an office seeker, as he has never aspired to political honors. He and his wife are valued members of the Evangelical church. He is enterprising and progressive in his business and, as he is genial, pleasant and unaffected in his bearing, he readily attracts friends and exercises a kindly influence wherever he is known. He liberally supports movements which he regards as important in the advancement of the general interests and is recognized as a most useful citizen.

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### CHRISTIAN WEBER.

Christian Weber, who for many years has been engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Louisa county, was born in Germany on the 8th of January, 1847, and is a son of George and Frederica (Hartman) Weber, also natives of the fatherland. The parents emigrated to the United States in 1849, making their way westward to Louisa county and arriving in Port Louisa with two other families. Their combined assets amounted to only seven dollars. The other men immediately obtained employment in the packing house at Wapello but Mr. Weber worked at his trade of blacksmith, and by means of rigid economy they were later able to buy forty acres of land near Wapello, in the operation of which Mr. Weber engaged for several years. Subsequently disposing of his interest he bought one hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Long creek, this county, where he resided until his demise in 1866, when he had attained the age of sixty-one years. The mother of our subject had passed the eighty-seventh anniversary of her birth when she died in 1903. Of the eight children in the family four are living: Hannah, the widow of Henry Deppe, of Louisa county; Christian; Caroline, who married John Storey, of Nebraska; and John H., who is living in Louisa county. Those deceased are as follows: Henrietta, Amelia and the two eldest who died in Germany.

As he was only two years of age when brought by his parents to the United States, Christian Weber has spent practically his entire life in the county where he is now residing, obtaining his education in its district schools. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age, assisting in the cultivation of the homestead. In 1872 he began working for himself and by means of thrift and diligence had acquired sufficient means at the time of his father's death to buy the interest of all the other heirs, except that of his brother John, in the old farm. When his youngest brother attained his majority Mr.



MR. AND MRS. CHRISTIAN WEBER



Weber sold the farm to him and bought one hundred and thirty-five acres adjoining Wapello. He has a very fine piece of property here, upon which he has made all of the improvements and engages in general farming and stock raising.

On the 30th of March, 1875, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Weber and Miss Ella J. Peters, a daughter of John and Sarah (Twigg) Peters. Ten children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Peters, the order of their birth being as follows: Ella J.; Edward L., who is residing in Nebraska; and Katie and Annie, both of whom are deceased; William, who is living in Louisa county; Minnie, deceased; Charles, who is living in Minnesota; John, of Missouri; Ida, the wife of Joseph Hammond, of Louisa county; and George, also of this county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weber have been born six daughters and three sons: Effie, who married William A. Miller, of Maryville, Missouri; Anna, who is teaching school in Gregory, South Dakota; Sadie, the wife of Leonard J. Shipman, of Butte, Nebraska; George, who is living in Columbus Junction, Iowa; Nellie, who died at the age of two years; Edward, who died at one year of age; Benjamin, who is living in Whitman, Nebraska; and Lena and Grace, who are at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Weber hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political support he gives to the republican party. He is one of the progressive citizens of his community always taking an active and helpful interest in township matters and has for twenty-two years served as a trustee. A man of limitless energy and definite purpose, Mr. Weber has so capably directed his activities as to become recognized as one of the successful and substantial citizens of Wapello township.

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#### PROFESSOR GEORGE WILLIAM WEBER.

George William Weber, who for the past three years has been superintendent of schools in Columbus Junction, was born on a farm west of Wapello, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 1st of February, 1883. He is a son of Christian and Ella J. (Peters) Weber, whose biographical record appears above.

His boyhood and youth, although spent on the farm, were very largely devoted to the acquirement of an education, in the pursuit of which he attended the public schools. An excellent student he applied himself diligently to the tasks assigned him and as a result graduated from the Wapello high school at the age of sixteen years. He subsequently attended the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, from which institution he was awarded the degree of Master of Didactics with the class of 1905. At various times since he has attended the University of Michigan and the Iowa State University, where he pursued special courses. He began his career as a teacher at the age of eighteen years in the state of Minnesota, before obtaining his degree. Immediately following his graduation he was engaged as principal of the schools of Crawfords-

ville, this state, where he remained for three years, at the expiration of which period he resigned in order to become superintendent of the schools of Columbus Junction, where he is now located.

At Grand View, Iowa, on August 1, 1906, Mr. Weber married Miss Grace Elnora Beik, a daughter of Jacob and Alverda (Hanley) Beik, and unto Mr. and Mrs. Weber has been born one child, Farrel Beik. Mrs. Weber also attended the State Teachers College, having been a student in that institution for four terms.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Weber affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church, and she is a member of the P. E. O. of Columbus Junction. Mr. Weber is a republican but never takes a prominent part in political activities though he always gives his assistance in forwarding every movement which will in any way tend to advance the intellectual or moral welfare of the community, and very efficiently served as secretary of the Columbus Junction Chautauqua in 1910.

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### GRANT HOOK.

One of the capably cultivated and valuable farms of Jefferson township is that of Grant Hook, who owns two hundred and four and three-fourth acres on section 33. He was born in this township on the 25th of February, 1864, and is a son of George W. and Emily B. (Trask) Hook. The father was born in Augusta county, Virginia, and the mother in Illinois, but they were married in Iowa. In 1850, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Hook went to California to seek his fortune. He met with a fair degree of success as a prospector and he also engaged in mercantile business, remaining on the coast for three years. At the end of that time he came to Iowa and bought three hundred and six acres of land in sections 14 and 15, Jefferson township. He had cultivated his farm for a year at the time of his marriage to Miss Trask. By this union there were born nine children: Alonzo B., a farmer of Jefferson township; Elisha I.; Sophia J., the widow of Dr. Tustison; Jessie L., the wife of Abe Parsons; Grant; George, Jr.; Emma; Lola; and Bird M. The father passed away in 1895, but his wife survived until January, 1910.

Grant Hook spent his early years on the old home farm, attending the district schools in the acquirement of his education. After laying aside his textbooks he assisted his father in the work of the homestead until he had attained his maturity, when he bought the farm where he is now residing. In addition to the cultivation of his fields he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock, which have proven most lucrative.

On the 15th of October, 1891, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hook and Miss Amelia Gauss, who was born in Wapello on the 8th of March, 1872. Mrs. Hook is a daughter of J. G. and Anna B. (Schneider) Gauss, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, who emigrated to the United States in the early '50, locating in Madison, Indiana. In 1866 they removed to Louisa county, Iowa, where



they resided until 1892, when they migrated to Page county, where Mrs. Gauss passed away on the 25th of March, 1902. The father survived her until the 3d of April, 1906. They were the parents of eleven children, all but one of whom are living. Mrs. Hook, who was a graduate of the high school, taught for several years prior to her marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hook were born two children, a son and a daughter: Mildred, who was born on the 17th of October, 1894, and is attending high school at Shenandoah; and Frank Gauss, whose birth occurred on the 15th of March, 1897.

The parents are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hook is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being affiliated with Wapello Lodge, No. 19, I. O. O. F. His political support he has given to the republican party, and he has served as a member of the school board, always having taken an active interest in educational matters. He is one of the substantial and highly regarded agriculturists of Jefferson township, where he has always resided and has many friends.

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### HARRY O. PEASE.

The beauty and attractiveness of a city is due, perhaps, to no other class in so large a measure as to the builder and architect, and thus the labors of Harry O. Pease, the leading contractor of Wapello, have played an important part in the development and improvement of the community. Wapello is proud to number him among her native sons, his birth occurring here on the 14th of April, 1866. His parents, Henry S. and Fernanda (Jackson) Pease, natives of Maine and Pennsylvania respectively, came to Louisa county, Iowa, at an early day and still continue to make their home here. In their family were the following children: Harry O.; Eugene H., a resident of this city; and Henrietta, the wife of W. B. Kemp, of Washington, Iowa.

At the usual age Harry O. Pease was sent as a pupil to the public schools, which he attended through consecutive grades to his graduation from high school, and later he had the benefit of a course in architecture. Thus well equipped for life's responsible and onerous duties, he left home at the age of nineteen years and made his way to Kansas, where for two years he was engaged at the carpenter's trade. Returning to Wapello, he has since continued to make this the scene of his activities, carrying on business as a contractor, builder and architect. He has displayed much skill in his chosen profession, and evidences of his ability are seen on every hand, many of the finest and most substantial structures of the city being specimens of his handwork. He is recognized as the leading contractor of this locality and in this capacity is accorded a large and distinctively representative patronage.

On the 24th of September, 1902, Mr. Pease was united in marriage to Miss Clara Archibald, who was born in Louisa county, a daughter of Rufus and Martha Archibald, both of whom are still living. In their family were seven



children, and by her marriage to Mr. Pease their daughter Clara became the mother of two children, Sharon A. and Lola M.

Mrs. Pease is a member of the Christian church, in which she is an active and helpful worker, while her husband is well known in fraternal circles, being identified with Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M., of Wapello, and also with the Order of the Eastern Star. His political support is given to the republican party and he is active as a party leader in his community, having served as alderman of his ward for twelve years, in which capacity he has ever stood for all that is honorable in citizenship. For fourteen years he was chief of the fire department and thus in various phases of community life he has played an important and responsible part. In private life, in his public capacity and in the line of his profession his efforts have ever been for the development and betterment of the city, and few citizens are better known or held in higher esteem than he whose name introduces this review.

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### JOHN SPAETH.

Among the energetic and successful citizens of Louisa county who can claim birth in Germany and who came to the new world to work out their destiny under the stars and stripes may be named John Spaeth, for years past a well established farmer of Columbus City township. He was born in Germany, December 26, 1848, a son of Claus and Catharina (Grimm) Spaeth, the latter of whom died in the old country. The father came to America in 1873 and here spent the remainder of his life. In the family were six children; Claus, who died at the age of two years; Anna, who is the widow of George Smith, of California; John, of this review; Adolph and William, twins, the former of whom is deceased; and Ferdinand, who lives at Columbus City.

John Spaeth received his preliminary education in his native land and continued there until he was seventeen years of age. He then came to America, having decided to make his home in the republic, of which he had received many favorable reports from friends of the family who had greatly improved their condition by settling in the United States. After arriving in America Mr. Spaeth first located in Scott county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming for two years. He then went to Camanche, Iowa, and was for four years employed in the government distillery at that point. In 1871 he arrived in Louisa county, and one year later purchased one hundred acres of land on section 6, Columbus City township, upon which he established his homestead. He has made many excellent improvements on the place and engages in general farming and stock-raising, devoting special attention to graded stock, of which he is a good judge. As he takes a deep interest in his work and spares no pains to secure the best results, his efforts are rewarded with a generous annual income.

On the 25th of September, 1873, Mr. Spaeth was married to Miss Henrietta M. Knight, a daughter of Curtis and Nancy (Lewis) Knight, both of

whom were born in Vermont. The father came west in 1832 and took up land on the spot which is now occupied by Rock Island, Illinois. This was about the time of the Black Hawk war and settlers were ordered to leave the country. Instead of doing so, however, Mr. Knight secured employment as scout under General Winfield Scott and met with many interesting ventures as the Indians were being driven away. After the close of the war he returned to Vermont and was married, but in 1840 started westward with his wife, settling on a farm of about two hundred and forty acres in Louisa county. He died in 1857, his wife having been called away in the previous year. In their family were six children, namely: Alonzo, who became a soldier in the Civil war and died from the effects of exposure received in the service; Stephen, deceased; Stephen, the second, of Columbus Junction; Triphosa and Lizzie, who are also deceased; and Henrietta M., now Mrs. John Spaeth. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Spaeth: George, who died in October, 1902; Emma E., the wife of W. M. Randolph, of Eldon, Iowa; Curtis, of Morning Sun; Helena, who married Loyd Brown, of Louisa county; Harry, who resides at Eldon; Charles, who is at home; and Frank and Glen, who are also at home.

Mr. Spaeth is the oldest Odd Fellow in Columbus City lodge and is a member of the camp, and also a valued member of the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a staunch advocate of the democratic party. In religious belief he adheres to the Lutheran church, while his wife is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. and Mrs. Spaeth have reared a large family and in all their relations of life have performed their duty, thus gaining the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends in Louisa county.

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### JOHN L. CAMPBELL.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and forty-eight acres in Elliott township does credit to the agricultural skill of John L. Campbell, one of Louisa county's native sons, who was born on the 1st of May, 1870. His parents were William J. and Mary Jane (Johnson) Campbell, the father a native of Perry county, Illinois and the mother of this county. Twelve children were born to them, nine of whom still survive. The mother passed away on the 5th of December, 1910, but the father, who is a veteran of the Civil war, is still living and now makes his home in Oakville.

John L. Campbell, who was educated in the common schools of this county, remained on the homestead with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he was married. Immediately following this event he purchased eight acres of land on section 27, Elliott township, upon which he resided for one year. At the expiration of that period he disposed of his property and bought the farm upon which he is now residing, located on sections 26 and 27, the same township. Mr. Campbell has greatly improved his place by the erection of some new and substantially constructed buildings, as well as by making

some minor changes which have enhanced the appearance and value of the property. Although he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, he makes a specialty of the raising and feeding of hogs, the returns from which undertaking have been fully commensurate with his expectations.

On January 23, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Campbell and Miss Jennie Clara Owens, a native of Morning Sun, her birth having occurred on the 10th of September, 1876. Prior to her marriage she was a teacher and is a graduate of the high school of her native town. She is a daughter of John and Sarah (Foster) Owens, natives of Ohio, who came to Louisa county in an early day. The father passed away August 16, 1907, but the mother is still surviving and continues to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Burt Meyers, in Des Moines county. Mr. and Mrs. Owens had ten children, all but one of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have three daughters and two sons, as follows: Bessie L., who was born on the 7th of May, 1897; Mary L., born on the 23d of March, 1901; Martha E., whose birth occurred on the 23d of December, 1903; Kenneth C., who was born on the 13th of December, 1905; and Kermi O., born on the 25th of November, 1909.

The family affiliate with the Methodist Protestant church and Mr. Campbell votes the republican ticket. He is not an office seeker, however, so does not prominently participate in political activities, preferring to devote his entire time toward advancing his personal affairs. He has always lived in Louisa county and has ever so guided his life and business transactions as to enable him to retain the friendship and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

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### JOHN J. DAVIS.

John J. Davis, a retired agriculturist living on his farm in Columbus City township, was successfully identified with farming and stock-raising interests in Louisa county throughout his active business career and is still the owner of five hundred and forty-eight acres of rich and productive land here. His birth occurred in Wales on the 10th of August, 1844, his parents being John H. and Ann Davis, who were likewise natives of that country. They crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1861, purchasing and locating on a farm in Louisa county and here continuing to reside throughout the remainder of their lives. Their children were six in number, namely: Mary S., living in Louisa county; Rachel, the wife of Evan Edwards, of this county; John J., of this review; H. J., who is also a resident of Louisa county; and two who are deceased.

John J. Davis attended the common schools in pursuit of an education and remained under the parental roof until thirty years of age, when he was married and established a home of his own. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising claimed his attention throughout his active business career and brought him a gratifying measure of prosperity. His landed holdings now embrace five hundred and forty-eight acres in Louisa county. When he had accumulated a

competence that obviated the necessity of further toil he put aside the active work of the fields and has since lived retired in the enjoyment of well earned ease. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity and the success which has crowned his labors is but the merited reward of industry, energy and perseverance.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Davis chose Miss Dorothy Evans, who was likewise a native of Wales and by whom he had five children, namely: J. M. and H. E., both at home; Walter C., living in Louisa county; Anna, the wife of John G. Thomas, of this county; and Price, also at home. The wife and mother was called to her final rest in March, 1886.

Mr. Davis is a republican in politics and has held the office of school director. He has made his home in Louisa county for a half century and has long been numbered among its most prosperous and esteemed citizens.

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### G. W. ARONHALT.

From the rich farming district of Iowa there have come many men who have won success in agricultural lines and are now enjoying the fruits of their labor. To this class belongs G. W. Aronhalt, who is now living practically retired. He is yet in the prime of life and his well directed energy in former years has brought to him a competence that supplies him with all of the necessities and many of the comforts of life without recourse to further work. Born in Ohio on the 17th of July, 1844, he is a son of John and Margaret (McKi) Aronhalt, natives of Ohio and Scotland respectively. The family was established in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1854, the father entering land in Marshall township upon which he and his wife spent their remaining days. Of their family of two children G. W., of this review, is the youngest; his sister, Mary J., is the wife of John Higgins, of Louisa county.

G. W. Aronhalt was a little lad of ten years when brought by his parents to Iowa, and his education, which had been begun in the schools of his native state, was completed in the schools of Louisa county. He passed the period of his boyhood and youth on his father's farm, assisting more and more largely in the work of the fields as the years passed, and thus his early training in agricultural lines well qualified him to successfully carry on business on his own account. He remained at home until he attained his majority, when he embarked in an independent farming venture, purchasing two hundred acres in Madison county, Iowa. This he later sold, after which he bought a farm in Louisa county, upon which he resided for about five years. At the end of that time he disposed of that property and came to Morning Sun township where he invested in his present farm, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, located on sections 17 and 18. This is a well improved place, in the midst of which he has erected substantial and commodious buildings, while in the fields are found all of the modern accessories and equipment for facilitating farm labor.

As a farmer Mr. Aronhalt has proved quite successful and, taking pride in the appearance of his farm, has added every improvement which might contribute to its neatness and fertility. He has also made such study of the soil as to enable him to so adapt his crops as to reap the maximum yield per acre. Although he gives careful supervision to his interests, he is now living practically retired, leaving the active work of the farm to his son.

In 1870 Mr. Aronhalt was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Bevens, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on the 28th of May, 1851, a daughter of Asher and Ann (Stafford) Bevens. The parents, natives of Ohio and Delaware respectively, were married in Peoria county, Illinois, and in 1856 came to Iowa, taking up their abode on a farm in Louisa county. In 1880, however, they removed to Clarke county, this state, and there both passed away. Of their family of twelve children only six are now living.

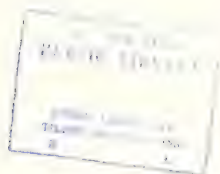
Unto Mr. and Mrs. Aronhalt have been born two children, but the eldest, Charles, who was born August 21, 1875, died July 31, 1878. The remaining son, Arthur, who was born January 3, 1880, resides with his parents and is engaged in the operation of the home farm. He is numbered among the younger representatives of agriculture in Morning Sun township and is progressive and practical in his methods. He was married, on the 25th of February, 1904, to Miss Amy Deal, who was born in Henry county, Iowa, on the 10th of March, 1886. Her parents, William and Jennie (Snyder) Deal, are yet living, making their home in Henry county, Iowa. Unto them have been born one daughter, Vivian Marie, whose birth occurred on the 7th of September, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Aronhalt are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are deeply interested. In fraternal relations he is a Mason, and gives his political support to the democratic party, having served as school director for some time and also as superintendent of the school board. Alert and energetic, he is in close touch with all of the interests which are factors in the life of a progressive citizen and of the community at large, and is recognized as a helpful factor for development and improvement in the locality where he now makes his home.

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### THOMAS JEFFERSON GIPPLE.

The cultivation of his home farm consisting of two hundred and eighteen acres engages the attention of Thomas Jefferson Gipple, who was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 15th of July, 1859. He is a son of J. S. and Margaret (Hoover) Gipple, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1850, and located in Port Louisa township, where for many years the father was engaged in farming. The mother passed away on the 3d of February, 1897, at the age of sixty-nine years, but the father still survives and continues to make his home in Letts. Of the eleven children born of their union only five are living.





MRS. MARY B. AUERACHER

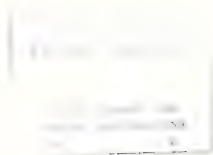


MR. AND MRS. JOHN S. GIPPLE



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS J. GIPPLE





Thomas J. Gipple was reared like the majority of farm lads, acquiring his education in the common schools and assisting in the work of the fields. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age and then farmed as a renter for three years. At the expiration of that period he bought the Auracher homestead located on section 23, Elm Grove township, where he is making a specialty of the feeding and raising of stock. His is one of the well improved and highly cultivated properties of the township.

On the 24th of April, 1884, Mr. Gipple was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Auracher, who was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of Christian and Mary (Buzzard) Auracher, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. Mr. Auracher emigrated to the United States with his parents when a lad of two years and was reared and educated in the Keystone state, where he was married. Accompanied by his wife and family he removed to Iowa in 1868, locating on the farm now belonging to his son-in-law, Mr. Gipple. Here Mr. Auracher passed away on the 23d of September, 1879, and his wife on the 21st of July, 1901. They were the parents of six children. To Mr. and Mrs. Gipple have been born three sons and a daughter, in the following order: Frank V., who is a resident of this township; Joseph H., a farmer of Louisa county; Winnie, the wife of L. B. Hall, also of this county; and Taylor J., who is attending the Winfield high school.

The family attend the Evangelical church, in which the parents hold membership, and Mr. Gipple affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, being identified with Camp No. 3145, Columbus Junction. He gives his political support to the candidates of the republican party, but, never having been an aspirant for official honors, he does not actively participate in township affairs. Mr. Gipple has met with good success in his ventures and is regarded as one of the substantial and capable agriculturists of Elm Grove township.

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#### FREDRICK RAHMILLER.

Fredrick Rahmiller, a prosperous farmer who occupies the old family homestead in Columbus City township, where he has spent most of his life, is a native of Germany. He was born December 5, 1839, a son of Fredrick and Mary (Bekemeyer) Rahmiller. The father emigrated to America with his family in 1845 and took up his residence temporarily at Little York, Pennsylvania. Later he arrived in Iowa, at some time in the '50s, and settled in Louisa county, where he purchased eighty acres, upon which he established the family home. He died when he was about forty-five years of age, his wife being called away at the advanced age of eighty-three years. In their family were three children: Fredrick, of this review; William, who died while in the United States army; and Mary, who died in infancy.

At the age of six years Fredrick Rahmiller crossed the ocean with his parents to the new world and has ever since been a resident of the United States.

He received his early education in the public schools and, being a man of close observation, he has through experience gained many lessons which are not taught in the books. Ever since his boyhood he has devoted his attention to farming. He continued upon the home place, purchasing additional land as opportunity presented, and is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres, located on sections 7 and 12 of Columbus City township. As he is thoroughly acquainted with his vocation in all its details he has met with a goodly measure of success and ranks among the progressive citizens of the county.

In 1859 Mr. Rahmiller was married to Miss Louisa Arning, and to this union seven children were born, namely: Henry, who is now living in Louisa county; Fredrick C., who makes his home in Buchanan county, Iowa; William, of Bard, Iowa; Herman, of Louisa county; Rose, who is the wife of John Adamson, of Bard; Louisa, who married Lewis Cutcomp, of Louisa county; and Mary, who is deceased. The mother of these children died in 1885 and in 1890 Mr. Rahmiller was married to Mrs. Harriet (Hall) Bond, the widow of John Bond. By her previous marriage she was the mother of four children, all of whom are deceased. She is a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Hall, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Hall came with his family to Louisa county, Iowa, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

In politics Mr. Rahmiller is a supporter of the republican party and, while he has never aspired to political honors, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his farm, he has very acceptably filled the office of road supervisor. He and his wife are respectively members of the United Brethren and Christian churches and in their comfortable home, which is supplied with all the desirable conveniences, they enjoy the results of many years of wisely applied labor. The record of Mr. Rahmiller is that of an honorable and progressive citizen and he thoroughly merits the respect in which he is held by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### JAMES A. DUNCAN.

A highly successful and well known stockman of Louisa county is James A. Duncan, who was born in Seaton, Illinois, on the 20th of November, 1879. His parents, A. L. and Lucinda C. (Gilmore) Duncan, were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. The father is a prominent stockman of western Illinois, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of Percheron horses and Hereford cattle, and is president of the Illinois Cattle Feeders Association. He was also one of the organizers of the Oakville State Savings Bank but has since transferred his stock to his son, James A. In his family were six sons and one daughter: Leemoine G., a resident of Seaton, Illinois; Mary A., who married William Keating, of Seaton; Fred T., who is residing in Gainesville, Texas; James A., our subject; John K., of Dallas, Texas; and Frank L. and Harland H., also residents of Seaton. The father and his sons, Leemoine and Frank,

are the proprietors of the only lumberyard and elevator in Seaton, which is conducted under the name of A. L. Duncan & Sons.

After the completion of his education, which was acquired in the public schools of Seaton, James A. Duncan became associated with his father in business affairs. In 1895 he came to Oakville to take care of the grain and lumber business which his father had purchased of Elrick & Thompson and of which he had the management until 1905. After he had been conducting the business two years, or until 1897, his brother John K. became identified with him and for eight years they continued to have charge of their father's interests here. At the expiration of that period they disposed of their lumberyard and James A. Duncan purchased his brother's interest in the grain business, which he continued to operate until January, 1907, when he sold out and went to Texas, where he remained until 1908. Returning to Oakville he was elected manager of the Farmers Grain Company, which was being organized, and was retained in that capacity until October, 1909, at which time he withdrew in order to devote his entire time to the administration of his private affairs. Some time previously, in 1908, Mr. Duncan had purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 2, Huron township, Des Moines county, and section 35, Elliott township, Louisa county. On the 1st of March, 1910, he took up his residence on his farm and is now devoting his undivided attention to the breeding and raising of stock. He makes a specialty of Poland China hogs, owning registered thoroughbreds, and he is also an extensive stock-feeder. In addition to his stock-raising Mr. Duncan is engaged in general farming and is meeting with most gratifying success in both of his ventures. His farm is highly improved, carefully cultivated and well stocked with a high grade of horses, cattle and hogs. In the fall of 1909 he and his brother-in-law, William Keating, bought five hundred acres of land of Isaac Wagler, but in February, 1911, they sold this to T. G. Jamison and took two hundred and forty acres of his farm. Mr. Duncan now owns four hundred and forty acres in Louisa county. He is not only a director of the Farmers Grain Company but is also a director of the Oakville State Savings Bank.

On the 29th of November, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Duncan and Miss Maude Waterhouse, a daughter of Moses T. and Alice M. (Bell) Waterhouse, who were the parents of eleven children: William T.; James O.; John M.; Daisy B., the wife of G. W. Campbell, of Oakville; Maude, now Mrs. Duncan; Jacob; Ralph Roy; Nellie M., the wife of G. H. Williams; Violet E., who married Oscar Swanson; Raymond P.; and Elva M., who is at home. All reside in Oakville. To Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have been born five children but the youngest died in infancy. Those living are Myrtle M., Della F., Arthur L. and James H.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Duncan hold membership in the Presbyterian church, and he is also affiliated with the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Rebekah lodge, of which his wife is also a member. His political views coincide with those of the republican party but his time and attention have always been too much absorbed by

his business for him to participate in public affairs. Being placed in a responsible position in his early youth Mr. Duncan, although still young, has had the business experience of men several years his senior, and as a result he has developed the decision, judgment and sagacity absolutely essential in the conduct of big undertakings in any vocation.

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#### EDWIN REYMER JAMISON.

Iowa derives her wealth largely from her agricultural interests. The great broad prairies of the state offer excellent opportunities to the farmer and stock-raiser. The soil requires none of that previous laborious preparation necessary in a district of native forest growth, but responds readily to the care and labor which is bestowed upon it as the furrows are turned and the fields are cultivated. To this work of tilling the soil Edwin Reymer Jamison gives his time and energies but does not confine his attention entirely to one line, for he is also well known as a raiser and shipper of good stock.

One of Louisa county's native sons, he was born on the 26th of June, 1860, his parents being Mathew and Martha (Reymer) Jamison, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1840, and here the father passed away at the age of seventy-two years, while the mother's death occurred when she had reached the age of seventy-one years. In their family were eight children, namely: Minnie, deceased; Edwin Reymer, of this review; Melvin and Victoria, who have both passed away; Gertrude, of Louisa county; Myrtle, a teacher at Newport, Louisa county; William B., also residing in this county; and Frank, deceased.

Reared a farm lad, Edwin R. Jamison spent the period of his boyhood and youth amid the busy activities of rural life, and early acquired habits of industry, perseverance and thrift. He remained at home, assisting his father in the work of the fields, until 1886, when he embarked independently in business, removing to a farm of three hundred and twenty acres which he rented for four years. He then spent a similar period on a farm of two hundred acres which he also cultivated as a renter, after which he purchased his present place, consisting of one hundred and fifteen acres on sections 16 and 9, Wapello township, and he is also the owner of forty acres of good timber land about one mile south, located on section 21. His home place is a well cultivated tract, in the midst of which stand an attractive dwelling and substantial barns and outbuildings, while in the conduct of his enterprise he utilizes all of the modern and up-to-date equipment for facilitating farm labor. He is well known in this locality as a raiser of a good grade of stock, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle, and also ships a large number of hogs annually. Prosperity has attended his efforts as the years have gone by for he is progressive in the conduct of his interests, pursues the most practical and approved methods and possesses sound judgment and keen discrimination.

Mr. Jamison was married, on the 9th of September, 1888, to Miss Belle Vandevort, a daughter of Francis Asbury and Sarah (Lindsey) Vandevort. Her father was a veteran of the Civil war and her mother was a daughter of Dr. J. Lindsey, of Grand View. She was the eldest in a family of five children, the others being: Lottie, deceased; Emma, a teacher of Wapello; Harry, residing at Keithsburg, Illinois; and Arthur, of Wapello. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Jamison has been blessed with nine children, as follows: Guy C., Hal R., Orin L., Esther, Bernice, Emma, Donald E., Dorothy and Helen, all of whom are at home.

The religious belief of Mr. Jamison is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church, the teachings of which form the guiding rules of his life. Interested as all American citizens should be in the political situation of the country, he has thoroughly informed himself concerning the questions and issues of the day and gives stalwart support to the democratic party. Aside from the position of school director, in which office he has served for a number of years, he has never sought nor held public office although he has ever desired the success of his party and has been loyal and public-spirited in his citizenship. He is widely known in Wapello township where his business enterprise and industry have placed him among the most substantial and representative agriculturists, while his high personal worth has commended him to the respect, confidence and good-will of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### GEORGE W. GLENN.

Although he has been a resident of Louisa county comparatively a short time George W. Glenn has become well established as a farmer and enjoys the prosperity which results from wisely directed efforts. He is a native of England, and was born in Lincolnshire August 17, 1867, a son of George and Mary (Thurlby) Glenn. The father decided to seek his fortune in this country and came to America in 1867, leaving his family in his native land until he could be assured of at least a moderate degree of prosperity under the new conditions. His hopes were realized and he sent for his wife and two children in 1869. He located at Minier, Tazewell county, Illinois, where he worked by the month for three years, and then removed to Stanford, McLean county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming until 1898. He then removed with his wife to Bloomington, Illinois, and they are now living in that city, having reached an advanced age. In their family were eight children: Rosie, the widow of William E. Rogers, of Champaign, Illinois; George W., of Wapello, Iowa; Thomas H., of McLean county, Illinois; Lizzie, the wife of Thomas F. Kauffman, also of McLean county; Annie, now Mrs. S. A. Meyers, of Buchanan county, Iowa; Emma, who became the wife of John Kauffman, of Rolfe, Iowa; Minnie, the wife of M. C. Boyce, of Bloomington, Illinois; and Lilly, now Mrs. W. H. Noggle, also of Rolfe.

George W. Glenn, our subject, arrived in America with his mother in his infancy and his earliest recollections are of this country. He possessed good advantages of education in the common schools and remained with his parents until twenty-three years of age. In 1889 he began farming on his own account in McLean county, Illinois, where he cultivated ninety-six acres for two years. He then worked at the carpenter's trade for a year, at the end of which time he rented one hundred and sixty acres which he operated for a similar period. He then rented another tract of one hundred and sixty acres for one year and subsequently removed to Champaign county, Illinois, and for four years cultivated a farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres. Returning to the home place, he there spent three years, but was once more attracted to the carpenter's trade, which he followed to good advantage at Bloomington. In 1909 he bought eighty-five acres in Louisa county where he established his homestead. He has greatly improved his place, making it highly attractive, and as he is an industrious man and a good farmer his efforts are rewarded by abundant annual harvests.

On the 16th of March, 1893, Mr. Glenn was married to Miss Matilda E. Meyers, a daughter of Simon and Julia (Coleman) Meyers. Mr. and Mrs. Meyers were the parents of ten children, the eldest of whom died in infancy, the others being: Fred, deceased; Mary, the wife of John Smith, of Savannah, Andrew county, Missouri; Theodore, also a resident of Savannah; Julia, the wife of Gus H. Tugle, of South Dakota; Samuel A., of Hazleton, Iowa; Edward, deceased; Matilda E., now Mrs. George W. Glenn; Albert, of Stanford, Illinois; and Edith, who became the wife of Edward Miller, also of Stanford, and who is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn are the parents of two children: Bessie, who was born January 2, 1894; and Lilly, born September 9, 1896, and who died October 8, 1897.

Mr. Glenn affiliates with the democratic party, but has never sought office, preferring to devote his attention to his farm and his family. He is a member of Lodge No. 677, I. O. F., of Stanford, Illinois, and in religious faith adheres to the Presbyterian church. He is an active and energetic man, straightforward in all his dealings and generous in support of all worthy objects. In Louisa county he has found a location that has proved highly satisfactory, and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn have made a host of friends here who prophesy and wish for them many years of increasing prosperity.

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#### SYLVANUS DUNHAM.

Sylvanus Dunham, now deceased, who for fifty-five years was a resident of Louisa county, being one of its honored pioneers, was born in Fayette county, Indiana, August 20, 1822. He was a son of Nathaniel and Mary (Williams) Dunham, who were both natives of New York state. Death having claimed his father, he started with his widowed mother in 1836 for the far west, arriving



in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1837, at a time when much land in this part of the state was still owned by the government and unoccupied. In 1839 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Columbus City township and in 1845 acquired two hundred acres in Wapello township, upon which he took up his residence. He moved into a handsome brick house on section 24, Wapello township, in 1857, and there continued during the remainder of his life. He was a stock-raiser and shipper and also engaged very successfully in farming, his labors being abundantly rewarded.

On the 26th of April, 1865, Mr. Dunham was married to Miss Martha Jamison, a daughter of William D. and Isabella (Seeds) Jamison. She was one of a family of three children, the others being: Susan, who is the wife of S. A. Thompson, of Morning Sun; and Ira, who is now deceased. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunham: Ira Edwin, who is now living in Missouri; William Wright, who resides at Fredonia, Kansas; Harry Ansel, who is living at home; Mary Maud, deceased; Bertha Blanche, also deceased; Sidney Sylvanus, of Monte Vista, Colorado; Nellie Ursula, the wife of F. G. Colburn, of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Elmer Roy, of Louisa county; and Fred Earl, at home.

Mr. Dunham died September 6, 1892, at the age of seventy years, and the general expression of regret at the announcement of his demise gave indications of the deep respect in which he was held by the community. In politics he was a supporter of the republican party and religiously adhered to the Christian church. He was also a valued member of the Masonic order. He was unusually industrious and persevering in his undertakings and gained for himself highly creditable standing as a reliable and progressive citizen.

On March 24, 1910, Mrs. Dunham, who is a lady of unusually bright mind and the possessor of many attractive personal qualities, was married to William L. Brown, a record of whom follows.

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#### WILLIAM L. BROWN.

William L. Brown was born in Clark county, Indiana, September 30, 1840; and is a son of Ziba and Jane B. (Coffey) Brown, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, both of whom are now deceased. During the dark days of the Civil war the father enlisted in 1863 as a private in the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. He had previously served as a member of the state senate, being elected to that position in 1861, and when Adjutant General Bacon found that he was serving as a private he at once appointed him chaplain of the regiment. In his family were thirteen children. George B., now a resident of Arkansas, served two years in the Civil war, being a member of Company B, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded on the first day of the battle of Shiloh. William L., of this review, is the next in order of birth. John L. and Leonidas are both deceased. Adolphus Z., of Fredonia, Kansas, also served two years during the Civil war, being a member of the First Iowa Cavalry, and was wounded



in battle. America D. is the wife of Caleb Robert Hank, of Thermopolis, Wyoming. Floretta and Isadore P. are both deceased. Cassius M. is a resident of Santa Barbara, California. Lucinda is living in Ogden, Utah. John F. is deceased. Oren Dick was killed by a tree falling upon him. Cemilia Jane is the wife of B. M. Short, of Fredonia, Kansas.

Mr. Brown was engaged in farming in Clarke county, Iowa, at the outbreak of the Civil war and in response to the call of President Lincoln for soldiers to uphold the flag he enlisted in 1861 in Company B, Sixth Iowa Volunteers, participating in many prominent battles and movements of the war. He was taken prisoner at Corinth, Mississippi, after the battle of Shiloh and was confined for four months in the stockade at Jackson, Mississippi. After being exchanged he returned to his regiment and was wounded, his injuries necessitating his discharge after a service of two years and three months.

Mr. Brown returned to Clarke county and engaged in farming until 1865, when he moved to Missouri. In 1870 he went to the northwest and engaged extensively in the cattle business in the state of Washington, becoming the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. In 1903 he disposed of that property and spent the next seven years in Kansas, at the end of which time he came to Louisa county and was married March 24, 1910, to Mrs. Dunham. He and his stepsons are now in charge of the old family homestead of four hundred acres, which they are cultivating to excellent advantage. Mr. Brown has been three times married. His first wife was Miss Bernice Young and they were married in 1873. On June 10, 1887, he was married to Mrs. Myra Cullen, who died in 1903.

Politically Mr. Brown has ever since he attained his majority indorsed the principles and candidates of the republican party. He served as postmaster in the state of Washington for seventeen years and also as notary public and justice of the peace, discharging his duties with the same zeal and earnestness that he applies to his own business affairs. A veteran of the Civil war, he holds membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and has many staunch friends among his old comrades. He has experienced many fluctuations in life and has had his share of joys and sorrows but, as was exemplified earlier in his life when the country was in danger, he has always attempted to perform his duty even in the face of the gravest obstacles. An intelligent, patriotic and public-spirited man, he commands the respect of a wide circle of acquaintances, who admire him for his sterling qualities.

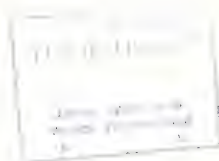
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### JACOB BEIK.

Jacob Beik, who spent the larger part of his life in this, and was one of the prosperous farmers of Port Louisa township, was born in Germany, in May, 1832. He was a son of Frederick and Sarah (Schneider) Beik, both of whom were natives of Baden, Germany. The family emigrated to America in 1845



MR. AND MRS. JACOB BEIK



and after spending a year near Buffalo, New York, located in Louisa county, Iowa, where the father purchased one hundred and eighty-two acres of land. He was a man of good judgment and great industry and applied himself with such diligence that he acquired six hundred and thirty acres of land. He died August 23, 1884, his wife having been called away about two years previously, on December 13, 1882. There were the following children in their family, of whom three sons died within fifteen months: Frederick, who was born in Germany and died in California; Jacob, of this review; Sarah, the widow of a Mr. Benz, of Muscatine, Iowa; Louis, George and Katherine, all deceased.

Jacob Beik came to America with his parents at the age of thirteen and a year later arrived in Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. He received his education in the public schools of Germany and Iowa, continuing with his parents until twenty-seven years of age. He then began farming on his own account and acquired three hundred and twenty acres in Port Louisa township. He devoted his attention especially to stock-feeding and, being a good judge of stock and also understanding thoroughly how to prepare the same for the market so as to receive the highest prices, he was very successful in his business.

On June 18, 1863, Mr. Beik was married to Miss Emma H. Jackson, and to this union six children were born, four of whom survive, namely: Charles, of Port Louisa township; Mollie, the widow of John Hardman, also of Port Louisa township; Frank L.; and John J. The mother of these children died November 12, 1875, and Mr. Beik was married, August 23, 1877, to Miss Alverda A. Handley, who was born at New Boston, Illinois, March 30, and is a daughter of Eli and Katherine (Denison) Handley, both natives of Indiana. Her parents were married in Mercer county, Illinois, and were among the early settlers of Iowa. Her father was a cabinet-maker and followed his trade until his death, which occurred about 1896. Her mother died in 1857. They were the parents of two children: Alverda A.; and Elizabeth R., the wife of George Weiderecht, of Louisa county. Six children were born to Jacob and Alverda Beik: Emma G., who became the wife of Louis E. Downer, of Muscatine county, Iowa; Katie B., who married H. Schweitzer, Jr., of Grandview; Arthur K., superintendent of the Aurelia (Iowa) high school; Grace E., who is the wife of G. W. Weber, of Columbus Junction, superintendent of the high school; Harold J., a graduate of the Wapello high school, who is still at home; and Paul D., who is also at home and is now attending the high school.

Mr. Beik died on the 18th of May, 1908, leaving many friends as well as his immediate family to mourn his death. He was a sincere believer in the Bible and a consistent member of the Church of God, with which his widow and children are connected. From his boyhood he was unusually active and industrious and he became a self-reliant man, who possessed the ability that would have won success in any honorable calling. He was a lover of his home and many acts of kindness endeared him to those with whom he was associated. As the father of a large family he set an example of patience and perseverance in well doing which his children found eminently worthy of imitation, and thus

nobly he performed his part in life's mission. Mrs. Alverda A. Beik is still living and resides upon the home farm, where she is surrounded by her children and possesses all of the comforts and conveniences that may be desired.

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### JAMES CARSON DUNCAN.

One of the finely improved farms of Columbus City township is the home of James Carson Duncan, its neat and prosperous appearance indicating a life of industry, perseverance and thrift on the part of its owner. A native of Louisa county, Mr. Duncan is a representative of a family which was established in this county at an early day. He was born on the 8th of April, 1868, a son of John Calvin and Sarah Jane (Tedford) Duncan, early settlers of this district.

The father was born in Monroe county, Tennessee, on the 6th of September, 1845, a son of John and Rachel (Duncan) Duncan, also natives of the Volunteer state, who came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1846. They located on a tract of two hundred acres of raw prairie land about two miles west of the present site of Columbus City, and there maintained their home until their death, the mother passing away when fifty-five years of age and the father at the age of seventy-six years. In their family were ten children but only three sons now survive, namely: Francis M., of Union township, Louisa county; Robert Nelson, of Columbus City; and John Calvin, father of our subject.

The latter was but sixteen years of age when, in September, 1861, he volunteered for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of Company C, Eleventh Iowa Regiment, and with that command served for three years and two months, meanwhile participating in all of the engagements of his regiment. He was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, on the 18th of October, 1865, and returned home with a most creditable military record, despite his youth. At that time his father agreed to give him all of the raw land which he could break and take care of if he would consent to pay the taxes and keep the fences in good repair, and he at once began to break the sod, using a team of oxen in the accomplishment of this task. He continued in the cultivation of that land for three years, after which he purchased a tract of eighty acres, to which he added, as his resources permitted, until he became the owner of a valuable property consisting of one hundred and seventy acres. There he engaged in general agricultural pursuits until 1908, when he sold that farm and removed to Columbus City, where he is now living retired. In addition to the handsome dwelling in which he makes his home he is also the owner of another residence and three building lots in that town.

John Calvin Duncan was twice married. On the 20th of April, 1867, he wedded Miss Sarah Jane Tedford, who passed away at the early age of thirty-two years. Unto them were born four children, namely: James Carson, of this review; Clara J., who married James Hamil, of Missouri; Anna, the wife of Harry Stapp, of Longmont, Colorado; and John F., also residing in that state.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Duncan was united in marriage, on the 20th of April, 1881, to Miss Martha Sands, a daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (McCall) Sands, natives of Tennessee. They came to Iowa at an early day, settling in Wapello county, where they both passed away. In their family were nine children, namely: William McCall, Henry, John, Amanda and Eliza, all deceased; Elizabeth, who married F. M. Duncan, of Louisa county; Zachariah and Francis, both of Wapello county; and Martha, the wife of John Calvin Duncan. By his second marriage Mr. Duncan became the father of two children: Nathaniel, of Columbus City; and Mabel, the wife of Robert Smiley. He belongs to the United Presbyterian church and also to the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a republican and for nine years has served as county supervisor, while for three years prior to his appointment to that position he held the office of trustee.

James Carson Duncan, whose name introduces this review, has spent his entire life within the limits of his native county. He spent his early days on his father's farm, amid the scenes and environment of rural life, devoting the winter seasons to the acquirement of his education in the country schools and the summer months to the work of the fields, early becoming familiar with the tasks which fall to the lot of the country lad. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, when he embarked in the business world on his own account as a renter, operating a farm in that capacity for five years. At the end of that time he was able to purchase the farm upon which he now lives, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Columbus City township. This is a well improved property, containing fine buildings, neat fences and all of the modern accessories and equipment for the successful conduct of a farming enterprise. In addition to tilling the soil he makes a specialty of raising Poland China hogs and in this direction is meeting with most creditable success. He is not afraid to work but on the other hand is enterprising, industrious and persevering, and therefore the gratifying degree of prosperity which is today his is well merited.

Mr. Duncan was married, February 11, 1893, to Miss Luella Johnston, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of W. A. and E. R. (Maxwell) Johnston. The parents were born in Alabama and Ohio respectively and came to this county at an early day, both passing away here. In their family were seven children of whom four are still living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have been born seven children, as follows: Madge E., a high school graduate; Ethel J., deceased; and Calvin A., Marjorie, Tedford, Robert N., and Harold, all of whom are still at home.

The parents are members of the United Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Duncan is now serving as trustee, and both are held in high regard in the community in which they reside. In politics Mr. Duncan gives his allegiance to the republican party, having served as school director and is now filling the office of township trustee, and in every relation he has been most loyal to the public welfare. His life has been well spent. In all of its relations he has been true to high and honorable principles and has never faltered in a choice between right

and wrong, but has always endeavored to follow a course that his judgment and his conscience have sanctioned, and therefore he is numbered among the respected and valued citizens of Columbus City township.

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#### ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

The soil of Iowa is rich and fertile and in every respect is adapted to various crops, while it is particularly excellent for pasture land, enabling one who desires to engage extensively in stock-raising to follow that business to great advantage. Among those who are successfully carrying on farming and stock-raising in Louisa county, this state, is numbered Alexander Hamilton. Born in Fayette county, Ohio, on the 14th of August, 1831, he is a son of Samuel and Mary (Holland) Hamilton, both natives of the Buckeye state, who came to Iowa in 1841. On their arrival here the father purchased school land in Louisa county, where he carried on farming for many years and where he and his wife both passed away. Of their family of thirteen children only three yet survive, namely: Alexander, of this review; D. D., residing in Louisa township; and Mary J., the wife of James Banks, of Wapello.

Fortunate in being reared amid the wholesome environment of farm life, Alexander Hamilton divided the period of his boyhood and youth between the acquirement of an education in the country schools and the work of the home farm. He early became familiar with the various phases of agriculture, and his thorough training in the fields formed the foundation for his latter-day success in that direction. He remained with his parents until he had attained man's estate and then engaged in farming on his own account, renting a place which he operated for three years. At the end of that time he purchased his present farm, consisting of one hundred and seventy-six acres on section 35, Wapello township, which he has highly improved and from which, since his occupancy, he has been reaping bountiful harvests. He has planted a good orchard, has a fine grove of trees of his own planting, is modern and practical in his methods, and his land is as well kept and productive as any in the township. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding a good grade of stock, and his careful management of both branches of his business has enabled him to place himself in prosperous circumstances.

On the 4th of December, 1856, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Dotson, who was born in Pennsylvania and came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1844. She is a daughter of Bazel S. and Mary (Davidson) Dotson, natives of Pennsylvania and England respectively. Both are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have been born nine children, as follows: Anna Letta, who married G. W. Schofield, of Wapello township; Juan Darilla, the wife of William Torode, of Louisa county; A. G., also of this county; T. T., a resident of the state of Washington; Adaline, who married William O. Syphrit, of Louisa county; Bertha, the wife of E. E. Campbell, also of this county;



Frank, residing in this county; George, filling the position of express agent for the Rock Island Railroad Company; and Charles, yet at home. The mother of this family was called to her final rest on the 4th of December, 1900. She was a lady of many excellent traits of heart and mind and was highly esteemed in the community.

In politics Mr. Hamilton gives his support to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired public office. He is a substantial citizen who merits the respect and confidence of the entire community. His present prosperity is due to his own exertions and careful management entirely, and he is now comfortably situated in life.

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### JOSEPH J. MOORE.

Joseph J. Moore, whose entire life was spent within the borders of Louisa county, was for a number of years numbered among its progressive and successful agriculturists. He was born in this county on the 27th of June, 1854, a son of Frank J. and Lucinda (Duncan) Moore, natives of Tennessee. The parents came to Louisa county as early as the '30s and were numbered among the pioneers of this district, taking their share in the work of developing the raw prairies into fertile and productive fields. Here they both passed away.

Joseph J. Moore, who was the eldest in a family of ten children, remained at home, giving his father the benefit of his assistance about the home farm until his marriage, which occurred on the 27th of February, 1879. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Miss Nettie E. Baird, was a daughter of John and Mary (Acheson) Baird, natives of Ohio, who came to Louisa county in 1854, locating on the farm which was the birthplace of Mrs. Moore and where she continues to reside. Their family consisted of nine children. They remained residents of this county throughout the remainder of their lives, the father passing away January 23, 1899, and the mother on the 4th of March, 1896.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Moore began farming on his own account and in 1891 purchased the old Baird homestead, which remained his home throughout the remainder of his life. For a number of years he was engaged in general agricultural pursuits here and his efforts in this direction met with gratifying results for he was progressive in his ideas, possessed good business ability, pursued modern methods and gave close application to his affairs—qualities which are potent and effective forces in the successful conduct of any enterprise.

Three children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Moore, as follows: Bessie Beuletta, who was born March 14, 1881, and who attended college at Cedar Falls and for five years was engaged in teaching; Nellie L., born October 9, 1885, who acquired her education at Cedar Falls and is now engaged in teaching school; and Frank A., born September 30, 1892, and who is now operating the home farm for his mother.



The family all hold membership in the United Presbyterian church and are well known and highly esteemed in the community in which they reside. Mr. Moore belonged to the Presbyterian church and was a gentleman of most exemplary life. Believing that the liquor traffic is the greatest evil against which the country has to contend he gave stalwart support to the prohibition party and was likewise interested in all matters which had to do with the moral advancement of the community. He passed away on the 5th of March, 1911, at which time the community lost one of its most highly respected and esteemed residents, whose life had ever been in harmony with high ideals and actuated by noble purposes. His widow continues to reside upon the old home place upon which her entire life has been spent. She has ever exemplified high qualities of heart and mind and has won the regard and friendship of her neighbors and acquaintances.

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#### MOSES CHILSON.

Although still residing on his farm in Morning Sun township, Louisa county, Moses Chilson is living a retired life, leaving the farm work to others. He was born in Illinois on the 10th of January, 1832, a son of Moses and Mary (Woodcocks) Chilson, both of whom were natives of Ohio, whence they removed to Illinois in an early day. They later took up their abode in Arkansas, where the father was called to his final rest, but the mother departed this life in Louisa county. Their family numbered eight children but our subject is the only one now living.

Moses Chilson was reared in the state of his nativity and his educational privileges were those afforded by the common schools. He remained under the parental roof until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he began farming on his own account in the Prairie state. In 1856 he came to Louisa county, crossing the Mississippi river on the ice March 9 with a very heavily loaded wagon. Arriving in this county, he purchased a farm one mile east and half of a mile south of his present home, which tract of eighty acres he later sold and bought the farm in Morning Sun township which is still his home. This place consists of one hundred and sixty acres, ten of which is timber, and is located on section 30. He has made all of the improvements upon his farm, erecting a good country home and substantial outbuildings that furnish ample shelter for grain and stock. For many years he was engaged in general farming and by his energy and good business ability won success that now permits him to spend the evening of life in honorable retirement. However, he still retains his residence on the farm and enjoys the rest and quiet which only a rural home affords. The town of Marsh is now located in the midst of his farm, he owning land on both sides of it.

It was while still a resident of Illinois that Mr. Chilson was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Rebecca Stafford, whom he wedded November

30, 1853. She was born in Delaware and after a happy married life of more than four decades was called to her final rest in 1894, her remains being interred in the Morning Sun cemetery. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Chilson were born eight children, four sons and four daughters, namely: James S., a resident of Louisa county; John, deceased; B. M., also a resident of this county; Mary and Francis M., who have departed this life; Anna, the wife of J. Marsh Riggle, of Henry county, Iowa; Amanda, deceased; and Rebecca, the wife of Joseph G. Miller, who now has charge of his father-in-law's farm and resides thereon. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children, Lloyd and Blanch.

Politically Mr. Chilson is a republican and although he has filled several public offices of minor importance, he has never aspired to public position. Mr. Chilson is well known not only in his home locality, but throughout Louisa county, for his residence here covers a period of fifty-five years. He has seen the wild prairie converted into rich and cultivable fields and the country thickly settled with a contented and prosperous people and he has done his full share in the work of development and improvement in his section. He has ever been a man of upright principles and strict integrity and in the highest and best sense of the term he is ever and essentially a gentleman, of which fact his friends bear witness

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### BENJAMIN FRANK CLARK.

Another of Louisa county's sons whose activities have always been directed along agricultural lines is Benjamin F. Clark, who was born on the 6th of October, 1854. He was a son of the late William and Calista (Bartemus) Clark, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Iowa. They were the parents of the following children: Lewis L., who is deceased; the second, a girl, who died in infancy; and Benjamin F., our subject. Mrs. Clark had been married previously to a Mr. Cole and unto them were born four children: Henry, who is deceased; John, also deceased; Martha, the deceased wife of Charles Stone; and Thomas, who is a resident of Harrison county, Missouri.

Benjamin F. Clark was reared upon a farm, acquiring his education in the district schools of this county, which he ceased to attend when he had a sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to undertake the real work of his life. When old enough to choose a vocation he decided upon the one for which he felt he was best adapted, both by training and preparation, and for a time rented land which he cultivated. In 1879 he purchased forty-five acres, to which tract he has since added by purchase another forty and now owns eighty-five acres, upon which he has made all of the improvements. Here he engages in general farming and stock-raising.

On the 13th of November, 1879, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Clark and Miss Anyce Hamilton. She is a daughter of Jesse and Maria (Kimerer) Hamilton, early settlers of Louisa county, who were the parents of three children

of which Mrs. Clark was the eldest. The others are: Arnold, who is a resident of Fort Madison; and W. E., who is living near Morning Sun. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clark were born two children: Jessie Pearl now the wife of Burt E. Lockwood; and William A., who is deceased.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his political support he accords to the democratic party, but as he has never been an office seeker does not actively participate in township affairs. In religious faith he is a Methodist, with which church his wife is also identified.

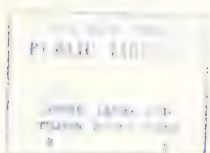
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### GEORGE W. LANG.

A respected and prosperous agriculturist of Grand View township is George W. Lang, who, with his wife, owns seven hundred and thirty acres of land where he engages in general farming and stock raising and feeding. He was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 27th of February, 1867, and is a son of Nicholas and Margaret (Lieberknecht) Lang. The father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania, but they were married in Muscatine county, and subsequently settled upon a farm, where the father, who is seventy-four, still resides, but the mother passed away in 1908.

George W. Lang early became familiar with the work of the farm by being assigned duties about the homestead, his responsibility increasing with the passing years. In the acquirement of his education he attended the schools of the district in which he resided and the academy at Wilton Junction. At the age of twenty-one he went into partnership with his father and brothers, who were engaged in agricultural pursuits, continuing to be identified with them for twenty-two years. In January, 1910, he withdrew and, coming to Louisa county, bought his present farm which is located on sections 10, 15 and 16. The property is finely improved and all of the land is under a high state of cultivation, and here Mr. Lang engages in general farming and stock-raising. He is making a specialty of the latter and keeps nothing but high grade cattle and hogs.

On the 8th of January, 1910, was celebrated the marriage of George W. Lang and Mrs. Bertha B. Lieberknecht, the widow of Benjamin Lieberknecht, who passed away on the 27th of March, 1908. Mrs. Lang is a daughter of W. J. and Mary (Smith) Ronald, her birth having occurred in this county on the 13th of October, 1868. Mr. Ronald was a native of Navoo, Illinois, his natal day being the 9th of October, 1834, and Mrs. Ronald was born in Oxford, Ohio, on the 25th day of December, 1842. They were both graduates of Miami University, of Oxford, of which institution Mr. Ronald's cousin, the late Whitelaw Reed, was also a student at that time. Mrs. Ronald's parents resided upon a farm in the vicinity of Oxford. Mr. Ronald and Miss Smith were married in Ohio on the 6th of October, 1863, and soon afterward removed to Iowa. They settled on a farm in Louisa county, which he operated for six years, and then withdrawing from agricultural pursuits he removed to Grand View, where he engaged in the





GEORGE W. LANG



MRS. GEORGE W. LANG



bee industry. He continued to be identified with that until his demise, which occurred on the 20th of February, 1882. His wife survived him but a few weeks, her death occurring on the 7th of March of the same year. Eight children were born to them, as follows: Anabel, the wife of George H. Barber, who operates an elevator at Warden, Iowa; Martha E., who died at the age of three years; Bertha B., who received a high-school education, and is now Mrs. Lang; Helen R., who married David Kirk, a banker of Niagara, North Dakota; John T., who died at the age of seventeen years, at which time he was a student at Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois; Ada P., who died at the age of fifteen; William Roy, who was born on the 1st of June, 1879, and entered college at the age of fifteen, where he remained four years, and who is now married and has two children, resides in Mitchell, South Dakota, where he is manager of one of the largest daily papers of the state; and Marion Ethel, a graduate of the Chicago high school, who for the past ten years has been engaged in the United States census bureau. Mr. Ronald, who was a progressive, public-spirited man, always took an active interest in all educational matters and served as county superintendent for several terms.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lang affiliate with the Congregational church, in the work of which organization they take an active part. Although he has been a resident of Grand View township for only about two years, Mr. Lang has proven to be an acquisition to the community, as men of his capability, energy and perseverance must ever prove desirable citizens in any locality.

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### T. J. KLOTZ.

T. J. Klotz is one of the active and prosperous farmers and stockmen of Columbus City township and is conducting his business interests on a farm of two hundred acres on section 16. The neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the careful supervision and practical methods of the owner, who is justly accounted one of the leading agriculturists of the community. His birth occurred in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, on the 5th of August, 1844, his parents being Joel and Sarah (Hausman) Klotz, who spent their entire lives in the Keystone state. Their union was blessed with eleven children, seven of whom are still living.

T. J. Klotz pursued his education in the common schools and remained at home until he had attained the age of twenty-three years. In 1867 he came to Louisa county, Iowa, and began working as a farm hand, being thus employed for one year or until the time of his marriage. Following that important event in his life he purchased a farm of two hundred acres on section 16, Columbus City township, and has since been busily engaged in its operation. He has improved the property by the erection of a number of substantial and commodious buildings and also set out a fine grove. In addition to cultivating the cereals



best adapted to soil and climate he is engaged in the raising and feeding of stock, finding this branch of his business very remunerative.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Klotz chose Miss Anna A. Stapp, a native of La Fayette, Indiana, and they were married August 30, 1868. When but two years of age she was brought to this county by her parents, Reuben and Ann (Reece) Stapp. They were born in Pennsylvania and Virginia respectively and removed to Indiana at an early day, while the year 1854 witnessed their arrival in Louisa county. Mr. Stapp located on a farm, erected a log cabin and made his home therein for several years. His demise occurred in June, 1892, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1902. They were the parents of fourteen children, eight of whom still survive. Mr. and Mrs. Klotz have seven children, as follows: R. L., who is a resident of Columbus Junction; Ada L., the wife of William Propst, of West Liberty, Iowa; Hattie, the wife of Dr. McGrew, of Grand View, Iowa; Effie, the wife of J. Don Darrow, of Columbus Junction; Meda M., the wife of Dr. Blender, of Carthage, Illinois; Pearl L., the wife of L. Palmer, of Carthage, Illinois; and Paul M., who is at home.

Mr. Klotz is a democrat in politics and has held several township positions, ever discharging his official duties in a most prompt and capable manner. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Reformed church, to which his wife also belongs. He is a man of high moral character, industrious and enterprising, and his honesty and uprightness have always merited him the confidence and respect of his neighbors.

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### ROBERT C. MARSHALL.

Robert C. Marshall, who leads a busy and useful life as a farmer and stock-raiser, is the owner of a well improved tract of land of three hundred and forty acres on sections 8 and 9, Marshall township. His birth occurred in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 25th of January, 1861, his parents being Clinton and Catherine (Willis) Marshall, who were natives of West Virginia and Ohio respectively. Clinton Marshall came to this county with his parents in 1842, and it was in honor of his father, Joshua S. Marshall, that the township of Marshall was named. The latter entered a tract of land comprising one hundred and sixty acres and erected a log cabin, residing therein until 1856, when he built a two-story brick residence, thirty-eight by forty-two feet, burning the necessary brick on his farm. As he prospered in his undertakings he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until at the time of his death he owned more than five hundred acres of rich and productive land. When he passed away in 1883, the community mourned the loss of one of its most respected and substantial early settlers. Clinton Marshall, the father of our subject, was reared on the home farm and remained under the parental roof until twenty-six years of age,

when he was married. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government and so successful was he in his farming operations that he was owning five hundred and forty acres at the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1901. He built the house which is now the home of his son Robert C. In politics he was a democrat but he never cared for official honors. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church. His wife survived him only a short time, passing away January 19, 1902, and was laid to rest by his side in the family graveyard on the home farm. Unto them were born ten children, all of whom are yet living.

Robert C. Marshall acquired a common-school education and was reared to manhood under the parental roof. When twenty-one years of age he took charge of the old homestead farm, operating the same as a renter until 1904. In that year he purchased the property, comprising three hundred and forty acres on sections 8 and 9, Marshall township, and has since devoted his time and energies to its further cultivation and improvement. The fields respond readily to the care and labor bestowed upon them and he annually gathers good crops. He also raises and feeds stock and his annual sales add materially to his income.

Mr. Marshall is a bachelor and two of his sisters make their home with him. His political allegiance is given to the democracy but he has never sought office as a reward for his party fealty. His life has been such as to merit the respect of his fellowmen and by his honesty, uprightness and industry he has contributed much toward the upbuilding of the county in which he has resided from his birth to the present time.

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#### GEORGE KEMPER.

George Kemper, who is engaged in the cultivation of his farm of one hundred and ten acres in Jefferson township, was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 3d of February, 1863. His parents, Henry and Charlotte (Winenberg) Kemper, were natives of Germany, who emigrated to the United States about 1855, locating in Muscatine county, where they were residing at the time of their demise. Seven children were born to them, all but one of whom are still living.

Educated in the district schools in the vicinity of his home, George Kemper remained a member of the parental household until he was of age. He then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Muscatine for a short time, and then went to Minnesota, where he resided for two years. At the end of that period he returned to Iowa and settled in Louisa county, where he purchased the farm of one hundred and ten acres on section 8, Jefferson township, upon which he has ever since resided. He has greatly improved his property by the erection of some fine buildings and it is now considered one of the valuable farms of the township.

Mr. Kemper was married in 1868 to Miss Mary Priebe, who was born in Missouri and is a daughter of Henry and Dorothea Priebe, who are still living and continue to make their home in Missouri. Of the seven children born unto them, six are living. Mr. and Mrs. Kemper are the parents of two sons and two daughters, in order of birth as follows: William McKinley, Dorothea, Oscar and Elma.

The family attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which the parents hold membership, while his political allegiance Mr. Kemper accords the republican party. He has served as a member of the school board and he is also a director of the Oakville Creamery Company. A man of energy and determination of purpose, Mr. Kemper has met with a moderate degree of success in his various undertakings and is one of the highly regarded citizens of his community.

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#### JOHN E. MORGAN.

General farming and stock-raising have characterized the efforts of John E. Morgan throughout his entire connection with business interests, and the success which he has attained indicates clearly the business ability he has displayed in this direction. One of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurred in Louisa county on the 24th of August, 1875, a son of John M. and Ann J. (Lewis) Morgan, both of whom were born in Wales. They came to America in 1844 and still survive, making their home in Columbus City. In their family were four sons, as follows: Louis, a resident of Missouri; Abia of South Dakota; John E., of this review; and Thomas, now deceased.

John E. Morgan spent the period of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, attending the country schools in the acquirement of his education and receiving thorough practical training in the work of the fields under his father's direction. Upon attaining his majority he wisely chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and since that time has continuously engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1905 he purchased the farm which he now owns, consisting of ninety-two acres on section 2, Columbus City township, to the development and cultivation of which he has since devoted his attention. This is an excellent property, many of the modern improvements found upon it being due to the spirit of progress and enterprise of Mr. Morgan. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of raising and feeding hogs, and the good quality of his stock is recognized throughout the township.

In 1896 Mr. Morgan was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Davis, who was born in Louisa county on the 24th of May, 1872, one of a family of six children born unto D. D. and Jane (Jones) Davis. The parents, natives of Wales, came to this country in 1850, first locating in New York, where they maintained their home until 1869, when they came west. The mother passed away in this county in 1895, but the father still survives and makes his home on

his farm in Columbus City township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have been born three children, as follows: Mildred Jane, born February 18, 1898; Wendel D., born June 22, 1900; and Donald E., born August 6, 1905.

Mr. Morgan and his wife are members of the Congregational church, in the work of which they are helpfully interested, and in politics he votes with the republican party. He is now serving as school director and is a public-spirited citizen, whose influence is ever on the side of advancement along material, political, intellectual and moral lines. Having passed his entire life within the borders of Louisa county, Mr. Morgan has become widely known, enjoying the esteem and regard of a circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

#### D. D. DAVIES.

Among the foreign born natives of Iowa who have utilized the advantages offered by their adopted country to such advantage that they are now able to live retired, is numbered D. D. Davies. His birth occurred in Wales, on the 12th of March, 1842, a son of Thomas and Esther Davies, also natives of that country. He was but a lad of eight years when his parents left the little rock-ribbed country with America as their destination, and in the fall of 1850 the family home was established in Madison county, New York. His education, which had been begun in his native land, was completed in the schools of the Empire state, where he was reared amid the busy activities of rural life.

He continued with his parents until he was twenty years of age when, imbued with the spirit of patriotism, he enlisted, in 1862, for service in the Civil war, becoming a soldier in Company Eleven, New York Independent Battery of Light Artillery, and with that command served until his discharge in January, 1865. In the meantime he had served in various important engagements, including Chancellorsville and the siege of Gettysburg. He received a scalp wound and in the battle of Bull Run was taken prisoner. He was mustered out at Petersburg in 1865, and with a most creditable military record returned home.

Mr. Davies continued to make his residence in the Empire state until 1868, in which year he sought the opportunities of the middle west, locating in Louisa county, Iowa. Choosing agriculture as his life work he purchased his present farm which has remained his home throughout the intervening years. He now owns one hundred and twenty-six acres of rich land, all under a high state of cultivation and equipped with all modern accessories for facilitating farm labor. Although he has now retired from active life, he prefers to make his home in the country, surrounded by the wholesome scenes and environment of farm life, and here he is happily spending the evening of his days, enjoying the comfortable competence which has come to him as the reward of many years of earnest effort and endeavor.

Mr. Davies was married in New York, September 5, 1865, to Miss Jane Jones, who was also born in Wales, a daughter of Thomas and Rachel Jones, both natives of that country, where their entire lives were spent. Unto this union have been born six children, namely: Mary J., the wife of John M. Williams; David E., of Louisa county; Rachel M., who married J. E. Morgan, also of this county; Esther Ann and Margaret H., deceased; and Thomas L., residing in Mahaska county, Iowa. On the 12th of April, 1895, the wife and mother passed away, her remains being laid to rest in the Cambria cemetery.

The religious faith of Mr. Davies is indicated by his membership in the Welsh Congregational church, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He has never desired nor sought public office, however, for his time and attention have been fully occupied with the conduct of his personal business interests. The success which has come to him in this direction is truly merited, for he started out in life without any especially favorable advantages and has risen to his present comfortable position entirely through his own industry, perseverance and well directed efforts. He possesses in marked degree the sturdy characteristics of the Welsh race and has ever displayed those qualities of citizenship which have won for him the confidence, respect and good will of his fellowmen.

#### WILLIAM S. NEWELL.

William S. Newell, who owns a homestead of ninety acres in Wapello township and in the cultivation of which he is engaged, was born in the township where he is now residing on the 4th of July, 1867. He is a son of the late Thomas and Sarah J. (Mock) Newell, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Pennsylvania. Of this union there were born ten children, all but one of whom are surviving: Elizabeth, the deceased wife of George Hansley, also deceased; Josephine, the wife of Thomas Wiser, of Adair county, Iowa; Hugh T., also a resident of Adair county; Samuel P., living in the vicinity of Denver, Colorado; Robert W., of Wapello township; Benjamin, residing near Denver; Ida M.; William, our subject; Vira; and Abe, a resident of Denver, Colorado. The father passed away on the 27th of September, 1899, at the age of seventy-six, but the mother survived until the 24th of April, 1905, her demise occurring at the age of seventy-two.

After he had acquired sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to begin his agricultural pursuits William S. Newell ceased to attend the district schools, and devoted his entire attention to the work of the home farm, remaining a member of the paternal household until he had passed his thirtieth anniversary. He subsequently bought eighty acres of land in Wapello township, where he has ever since made his home. All of the improvements upon his place have been made during the period of his ownership, and it is one of the well kept, attractive and highly cultivated farms of the township.

Mr. Newell devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of the latter, and has found both to be quite lucrative under his capable direction. He has extended the boundaries of his original tract and now owns ninety acres of land, all of which is under cultivation.

On the 16th of November, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Newell and Miss Carrie Kennedy, a daughter of Joseph C. and Martha (Kennedy) Kennedy, who were residents of this county. Seven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, all but one of whom are living. The order of their birth is as follows: William, who is a resident of Humboldt county, Iowa; Minnie, who married Herbert McCormick, of Louisa county; Annie, the wife of John Berg, of Olds, Iowa; Carrie, now Mrs. Newell; Maggie, who is deceased; Sadie, who is living in Glenwood, Iowa; and Clarence, who is a draughtsman with the Illinois Steel Company, Chicago. Mrs. Newell's mother died in 1890, and her father passed away in 1901. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Newell have been born two children: Blanche Eliza, who was born on the 9th of December, 1899; and Dorothy Mabel, whose birth occurred on the 5th of October, 1902.

Mrs. Newell holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Newell's political allegiance is given to the republican party, but never having been an office seeker he does not actively participate in township affairs, always having preferred to give his undivided attention to the direction of his personal interests.

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#### ALLEN HALL.

Allen Hall, who for a number of years has been successfully engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Oakville, was born in that town on the 29th of March, 1866. His parents were Martin C. and Adaline (Bateman) Hall, the former being a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. Reared in Oakville, our subject attended the public schools of that place until eighteen years of age and then followed farming for about two years. Subsequently he embarked in the mercantile business, conducting an enterprise of that character for twelve years. On the expiration of that period he became identified with real-estate and insurance interests and has since represented the Farmers Insurance Company of Cedar Rapids. He handles both farm lands and town property and enjoys a large and gratifying patronage, as the town of Oakville is now growing rapidly. Many sales and purchases have been entrusted to him, for he has made it his purpose to fully acquaint himself with realty values.

On the 19th of October, 1887, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Anna Bettler, a daughter of Charles and Barbara (Miller) Bettler. Unto them have been born four children, namely: Herbert C., whose birth occurred on the 15th of August, 1888, and who is now living in Chicago; Jennie, whose natal

day was July 25, 1890; Bessie, who was born on the 17th of June, 1895; and Maude E., whose birth occurred September 15, 1899.

In politics Mr. Hall is a democrat, while fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Christian church and his wife belongs to the Methodist Protestant church. He has always remained a resident of Louisa county and well deserves recognition among its substantial business men and representative citizens.

#### HENRY A. WEHMEYER.

Henry A. Wehmeyer, of Louisa county, comes of worthy German ancestry and during a life of more than fifty years has applied to good advantage those traits of industry and perseverance which are prominent characteristics of the Teutonic race. He was born in Warren county, Missouri, February 2, 1854, a son of August and Wilhelmina (Butlermilller) Wehmeyer, both of whom were born in Germany. The father learned the wagon-maker's trade in his native land and, believing that conditions were more favorable in the new world than he found in Germany, he emigrated to this country about 1850 and arrived at Wapello, Iowa, with his family in 1856. He worked at his trade in Wapello for two years and then purchased forty acres of land, which he cultivated diligently for twelve years. At the end of that time he disposed of his place and purchased eighty acres, which he also sold after a period of three years. He then rented land for three years and, having acquired sufficient capital, began purchasing land. He managed his business so successfully that he became the owner of nine hundred acres of good land in Louisa county and was engaged extensively in farming for about twenty years but spent the latter part of his life in retirement at Columbus Junction, where he died at the age of eighty-three. The mother survives and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Hank, in this county.

In their family were thirteen children: Henry A., the subject of this review; Fred, deceased; Mary, the deceased wife of Joseph Story, of Louisa county; Lizzie, who became the wife of J. H. Webber, also of Louisa county; John, a resident of this county; Amelia, who married Gus Wynnemeyer, of Butte, Nebraska; Emma, the wife of Henry Otto, of Louisa county; Kate, who became the wife of William Brown, also of this county; Tillie, deceased; Clara, the wife of Albert Hank, of Louisa county; Christina, who married Emanuel Schmeiser; Daniel, who resides in Louisa county, and Lena, the wife of Peter Bretz, of Columbus Junction.

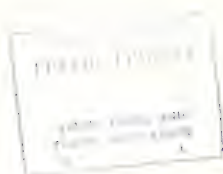
Mr. Wehmeyer of this review was reared under the parental roof and acquired his preliminary education in the district schools. He has been connected with farming ever since his earliest recollection and at the time of the settlement of his father's estate received two hundred and twenty acres, upon which he makes his home. He is very diligent in anything he undertakes and ranks among





MR. AND MRS. H. A. WEHMEYER AND SON





the prosperous and successful men of the county. He understands all departments of farming and also is an extensive stock-raiser.

On the 24th of December, 1892, Mr. Wehmeyer was married to Miss Mary Gauss, a daughter of Christian and Christina (Lautenschlauger) Gauss. She is one of a family of five children, namely: Mary, now Mrs. Henry A. Wehmeyer; Anna, the wife of E. P. Stevens, of North Dakota; George, of Linton, North Dakota; and Emma Christina and Caroline Margaretta, both of whom died in infancy. One son, Fred W., came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wehmeyer. He is now a promising young man of eighteen years and is assisting his father upon the home farm.

Mr. Wehmeyer is a consistent member of the Methodist church and in politics has adhered to the democratic party ever since he reached his majority. He is not a man to shirk responsibility and has served very acceptably to the people of the township as road supervisor and as township trustee. He possesses good business judgment, as is shown by his success in his vocation, and he now has a competency which guarantees a handsome yearly income. He represents the best class of American citizenship and his friends are justly proud of his standing as a man of responsibility and honor.

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#### DWIGHT TUSTISON.

General farming and stock-raising claim the attention of Dwight Tustison, who is engaged in the cultivation of eighty acres of land in Wapello township, Louisa county. He was born in Ainsworth, Iowa, on the 25th of October, 1866. His parents were the late Frank and Martha Tustison, natives of Ohio, the father a well known physician of Wapello, where he was engaged in practice until his death. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Tustison were born three children, of whom the son, Dwight, is the second in order of birth. The other two are: Emma, the wife of Robert Garrett, of Seattle, Washington; and Ora, who married a Mr. Rood, also of Seattle. In 1879 Dr. Tustison was again married, his second wife being Miss Sophia Hook, and they were also the parents of three children: Charles H., Frank and Emily.

After the completion of his preliminary education Dwight Tustison studied medicine for a time in the Rush Medical College of Chicago and also at Keokuk, Iowa. In 1896 he rented forty acres of land of D. D. Parsons which he operated for three years. He now owns eighty acres in Wapello township, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

On the 5th of June, 1898, Mr. Tustison was united in marriage to Miss Abbie Spitsnogle, a daughter of John and Sarah (Shaw) Spitsnogle, who were the parents of five children, as follows: Ameda, the wife of Clark Sheafor, of Louisa county; Carrie, who married Allan Graves, also of this county; Abbie, now Mrs. Tustison; George, who died in 1892; and John, who died in infancy.

Mr. Tustison is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political allegiance is given to the democracy, but he has never actively participated in township affairs, always having preferred to devote his entire time and attention to the direction of his personal interests.

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### G. W. GRAVES.

Among the pioneer settlers of Louisa county must be numbered the Graves family, who first located here in 1836 and for four generations have been identified with the agricultural development of the county. The late G. W. Graves was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on the 13th\* of November, 1835, and was a son of John and Amelia Graves, natives of Connecticut. They removed to Ohio in an early day, continuing to make that their home until 1836, when the father came to Louisa county and entered some government land. The following year he removed his family to his homestead and in 1838 he passed away. He had five children, all but one of whom are now deceased.

The education of G. W. Graves was limited because of the brief and irregular sessions of the district schools, which at that period were not very satisfactory owing to the poor and inadequate provisions made for educational facilities in the rural districts. He was only a child of three years when his father passed away and at a very early age began assisting the older members of the family and his mother in the cultivation of the homestead, continuing at home until he had attained his majority. He then worked at the carpenter's trade for several years, after which he bought the farm where his widow is now residing. He engaged in general farming and stock-raising until his demise, which occurred on the 15th of February, 1879. Mr. Graves' political principles coincided with those of the democratic party and he always took an active part in all township affairs of a governmental nature and at the time of his demise was secretary of the board of education.

He was united in marriage in June, 1856, to Miss Sarah E. Fairbanks, a native of Ohio, migrating from that state to Iowa with her parents, who located in Johnson county, in 1842. There her mother passed away in 1846, but her father survived until after the Civil war, of which he was a veteran. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks, two of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Graves had eight children, in order of birth as follows: Charles H., who is now residing in Illinois; Cassie E., who is deceased; Sherman A., who is operating the old homestead; A. D., who is a farmer in Jefferson township; Cassie B., who has been teaching in the vicinity of Chicago for twenty years, now located at Lake Forest, Illinois; and Nellie D., Faith B. and Eddie, all of whom are deceased.

Sherman A. Graves, who is managing the home farm for his mother, attended the common schools of Louisa county, during which time he also assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. Later he learned the carpenter's

trade but did not follow it very long, always having remained at home with the exception of two years he spent in California. In addition to the cultivation of his fields he is also engaged in the raising and feeding of stock, in which he is meeting with very favorable returns.

A. D. Graves, who is the youngest surviving son of G. W. and Sarah E. (Fairbanks) Graves, was born on the 31st of December, 1866. He acquired his education in the district schools in the vicinity of his home and after laying aside his text-books devoted his entire time and attention to the work of the farm, remaining at home with his mother until he had attained his majority. For twelve years thereafter he rented the old homestead and after his marriage purchased the farm, which consists of eighty acres of land on section 16, Jefferson township, and to this he has added until he has three hundred and twenty-four acres. He has wrought many improvements in his property during the period of his occupancy and it is now regarded as one of the most valuable farms in the township.

In 1892 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. A. D. Graves and Miss Carrie Spitsnogle, who was born in Louisa county on the 23d of February, 1870. Mrs. Graves, who was a teacher prior to her marriage, is a daughter of John and Sarah (Shaw) Spitsnogle, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Iowa. Five children were born to them, two of whom are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Graves have the following children: Nellie M., who was born on the 27th of July, 1895, and is now attending school at Wapello; Merle Lea, who was born on the 11th of March, 1898; Gladys L., born on the 2d of November, 1900; and Carrie A., whose birth occurred on the 14th of April, 1909.

The church affiliation of the family is with the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and Mr. A. D. Graves, who is a school director, casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party, whose policy he deems best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. The Graves family has been identified with the interests of Jefferson township for more than half a century, during which time they have always been recognized as capable business men, thoroughly reliable and trustworthy and most estimable citizens.

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#### THEODORE F. HANFT.

Theodore F. Hanft, now owning and operating the old Hanft homestead in Columbus City township, is one of the active and prosperous agriculturists and stock-raisers in this locality. He was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, on the 10th of March, 1857, a son of John and Helena (Smith) Hanft, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania respectively. The family home was established in Iowa in 1864, at which time the father, a farmer by occupation, purchased forty acres of land in Louisa county, to which he added by subsequent purchases, and at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine property of two hundred and sixty acres. At one time he also operated two thousand acres

of rented land in addition to his home place, and often had as high as twenty teams at work at one time in the cultivation of his fields and the harvest of his crops. In connection with his extensive farming interests he also gave considerable attention to raising cattle and hogs, and was one of the most substantial and successful agriculturists in his part of the county. He passed away in Columbus Junction in July, 1888. In his family were thirteen children, as follows: William H. and John, both now deceased; Milton D., a farmer of Louisa county; Jacob A., engaged in the hardware business in Columbus Junction; Theodore F., of this review; George S., also of Columbus Junction; Emma, the wife of Reuben Heindel, likewise of that city; Martha, who wedded George Wren, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Cora, who passed away in infancy; John F., a resident of Columbus Junction; Sarah, the wife of A. J. Willett, of that city; Edward, deceased; and Louis, whose death occurred in infancy.

Theodore F. Hanft was a little lad of seven years when brought to Louisa county, Iowa, by his parents, and in the public schools of this district acquired his education. Reared to farm work, he has since continued to concentrate his energies upon that line of activity which George Washington once designated as "the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation a man can follow." He remained with his parents, assisting his father in the cultivation of the home fields, until he laid the foundation for a happy home life of his own through his marriage January 19, 1887, to Miss Elizabeth Cassabaum, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and came to Louisa county with her parents when but two months old. She was a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Everhart) Cassabaum, who came to Louisa county in 1859, where the mother passed away six months later. The father's demise occurred in 1890. In their family were ten children, only five of whom now survive.

After his marriage Mr. Hanft rented the old homestead for about five years, at the expiration of which period he purchased it and has since continued to make it his place of residence. It is an excellent property of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 5, Columbus City township, all well improved and highly cultivated. The fields annually yield rich harvests in return for the care and attention bestowed upon them, and in addition to general farming he also raises and feeds stock. In both branches of his business he has prospered for, actuated by a laudable ambition to succeed, he has closely applied himself to the management of his affairs and has so directed his efforts as to bring forth the best possible results.

As the years have come and gone the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hanft has been blessed with five children, as follows: Edward H., living at home; Frederick J., born March 29, 1890, and who passed away May 27, 1890; Nellie M., who was born September 15, 1891, her death occurring March 10, 1892; and Ruth Anna and Cyril F., both of whom reside at home and attend the high school.

The parents are exemplary members of the United Brethren church, in which they have been active and helpful workers for many years, and in politics Mr. Hanft gives his support to the democracy, although he is not an office seeker.

He is one of the most highly respected and esteemed residents of Columbus township, wherein he has passed the greater portion of his life, and where he has gained for himself a circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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### F. V. WILSON.

After a long and active life devoted to agricultural pursuits F. V. Wilson is now living retired, but he still retains his residence on his finely improved farm located on sections 26 and 27, Morning Sun township, Louisa county. He was born in Pennsylvania, November 22, 1850, a son of William I. and Hannah (Clark) Wilson, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state and lived and died there. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Deborah J., the wife of Alexander McClure, of Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, the wife of W. Reader, also of that state; Hannah C., the wife of Samuel Colter, of Indiana; Harriet, who is still single and makes her home in Kansas; F. V., of this review; Sarah, the wife of Charles McCullough, also of Pennsylvania; Ithamar, a resident of Ohio; W. B. and J. P., twins, who make their home in Kansas; and one, who is deceased.

F. V. Wilson was reared and educated in the state of his nativity, remaining on the home farm until he attained his majority. He then for a few years farmed his father's land on his own account but in 1875, seeking the broader opportunities and advantages to be enjoyed in the middle west, he came to Iowa, first establishing his home in Taylor county. He spent but a brief period there, however, and then came to Louisa county, working for a few years as a farm hand. In 1881 he purchased his present farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres located on sections 26 and 27, Morning Sun township. He made all the improvements on this place, including a nice country home and substantial outbuildings which furnish ample shelter for grain and stock. For many years he was actively engaged in the operation of this place and raised considerable livestock, giving the major portion of his time to the latter industry. He is now living retired, but retains his residence on the farm, where he can supervise his interests.

Mr. Wilson was married after coming to Louisa county, to Miss Mary J. Henderson, who was born and reared here. Their marriage has been blessed with four children: Elizabeth B., the wife of E. Long, a resident of Minnesota; Maud, the wife of E. Carrick, a resident of Des Moines county, Iowa; Lucia Zell, the wife of M. McElhaney, also of Des Moines county; and Sadie F., at home. The wife and mother departed this life in October, 1902, her remains being interred in the Elwood cemetery at Morning Sun.

Mr. Wilson is a republican in his political views and affiliations and has served as a director and as secretary of the school board almost from the time of his arrival in this county to the present time. He is a strong advocate of

a good school system, having himself been accorded a high school education and having taught for several years in his earlier life. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was also a member. When he came to Iowa he possessed but little capital, but he possessed a stout heart and willing hands and it was not many years before he became the owner of land. From that time on he prospered until he is now enabled to put aside business cares and live in honorable retirement. Truly he may be termed a self-made man, for his success has come to him through his own good management, and at the same time it has been honorably won.

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### ALONZO B. HOOK.

One of the most extensive farmers and stockmen of Louisa county is Alonzo B. Hook, of Jefferson township, who is engaged in the cultivation of seven hundred and fifty-six acres of land. He was born in this county on the 9th of August, 1855, and is a son of George W. and Emily B. (Trask) Hook. The father, whose birth occurred in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1825, came to Louisa county at the age of twelve years, and continued to reside here until 1850, at which time in company with several other prospectors he started for California in search of gold. The trip, which was made overland with ox teams, was a long and tiresome one, several months being spent en route. Mr. Hook was quite successful in finding gold, and later he engaged in mercantile business, which proved to be most lucrative. He returned to Iowa at the end of three years, again locating in Louisa county, where he bought three hundred and six acres of land on sections 14 and 15, Jefferson township. The year following his return he was united in marriage to Miss Emily B. Trask, a native of Illinois, who removed from that state, to Louisa county with her parents, about 1836. Nine children were born of this union, as follows: Alonzo B., our subject; Elisha I.; Sophia J., the widow of Dr. Frank Tustison; Jessie L., the wife of Abe Parsons; Grant, a farmer of this county; George, Jr.; Emma, the widow of Dr. Frank Wright, of Wapello; Lola, the wife of W. E. Edwards, of Wapello; and Dr. Merritt B., of Kremmling, Colorado. Mr. Hook passed away in 1895 but the mother survived until January, 1910.

Alonzo B. Hook has spent his entire life in Louisa county, in whose district schools he obtained his education. When he had acquired such knowledge of the common branches as he deemed essential to enable him to begin his chosen vocation he laid aside his text-books and devoted his entire time and attention to the work of the farm. When he was twenty-one years of age he entered into partnership with his father, engaging in general farming and stock-raising, together until the demise of the latter. Subsequently Mr. Hook purchased the home farm from the other heirs and now owns seven hundred and fifty-six acres of fine farm land. In addition to the tilling of his extensive fields Mr.



Hook makes a specialty of raising and feeding all kinds of stock and has met with most gratifying returns from his undertakings.

On the 31st of October, 1888, Mr. Hook was united in marriage to Miss Emma Berryhill, who was born in Iowa City on the 20th of July, 1865, and is a daughter of William DeWitt and Anna (Depin) Berryhill, natives of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The parents came to Iowa at an early day, locating in Johnson county, where the family continued to reside until 1881. Mr. Berryhill, however, joined a party of gold-seekers in 1851 and went to California, where he remained for two years. Returning to Iowa at the expiration of that time he purchased a large tract of land in Johnson county, which he operated until he came to Louisa county in 1881. Here he again settled on a farm, where he was living at the time of his death in February, 1907, having survived his wife for thirty years, as her demise occurred in Iowa City in 1877. Of the nine children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Berryhill eight attained maturity, all but one of whom are now living. Mrs. Hook, who was given the advantage of a collegiate education, prior to her marriage was a teacher in the public schools. She has become the mother of two daughters and one son, as follows: Fannie J., who was born on the 18th of October, 1890, and is a graduate of the high school of Wapello, now teaching; Cornelia, born on the 16th of May, 1895; and Albert A., whose birth occurred on the 3d of August, 1897.

The family attend the services of the Methodist Protestant church, in which the parents hold membership. Mr. Hook is also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while in politics he is a republican. He always takes an active interest in all township affairs and is now serving as trustee and a member of the board of school directors. He has ever made the best possible use of his time and opportunities and by the capable and wise direction of his affairs has become recognized as one of the affluent citizens of Jefferson township.

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### JAMES E. BLANCHARD.

One of the pioneer agriculturists of Louisa county is James E. Blanchard, who was born in Oswego county, New York, on the 13th of July, 1831. He is a son of Timothy and Mary (Holmes) Blanchard, also natives of the Empire state from which they migrated to Edgar county, Illinois. They were the parents of nine children: Lesha and Holmes, both deceased; James E., our subject; Jacob, also deceased; Esther, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of George Bolton, a resident of Louisa county; Caroline, the wife of Mayland Starks, of Missouri; Calvin, deceased; and Timothy, also a resident of Missouri.

James E. Blanchard was reared and educated in Illinois, remaining at home until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he migrated to Iowa. During the first eight years of his residence in the Hawkeye state he worked as a farm hand. At the expiration of that time, however, he purchased forty



acres of land, upon which he erected a log house. He subsequently erected a two-story frame dwelling and barns and outbuildings upon his farm in the cultivation of which he met with success. As the years passed Mr. Blanchard extended the boundaries of his homestead until his holdings aggregated three hundred acres. In addition to his Iowa property he also owns three hundred and eleven acres of land near Raymond, Canada.

On the 20th of October, 1856, Mr. Blanchard was united in marriage to Miss Tamson Welch, who passed away on the 19th of May, 1901. Four children were born of this union: Alfa, who is deceased; Ida, the wife of John Morris, of Davis county, Iowa; Charles, who is associate editor of the Christian Union of Des Moines; and Leota, the wife of Charles Stone. Mr. and Mrs. Stone, who are living on Mr. Blanchard's farm, have four children: Jessie, the wife of Ed Blaise, of Marion county, Iowa; Howard, who is at home; Ralph, who is deceased; and Arthur, who is also at home.

His political allegiance Mr. Blanchard has always accorded the democratic party, and he has served as supervisor and school director. His religious affiliation is with the Christian church. Mr. Blanchard has been a resident of this county for more than fifty-six years, during which time he has made many friends, whose high regard he has won because of the fine personal qualities he possesses.

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#### THOMAS NEWELL.

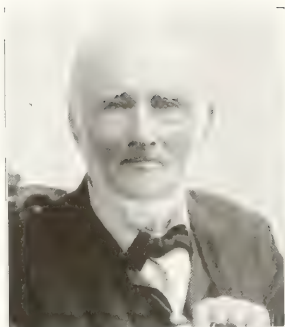
A prominent and highly successful agriculturist of Louisa county is Thomas Newell, who in addition to the cultivation of his farm has for the past decade been acting as vice president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts, Iowa, and during the past three years he has also been president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction. A son of pioneer settlers Mr. Newell was born in Louisa county, on the same section in Concord township where he now resides, on the 7th of April, 1847. His grandfather, Thomas Newell, was a soldier of the war of 1812, and his maternal great-grandfather, James Flaharity, served for six years and seven months under General Washington in the Revolutionary war.

Our subject's father, Robert F. Newell, was a native of Holmes county, Ohio, while his mother, who prior to her marriage was Miss Christina Newell, was also from the Buckeye state, her birth having occurred in the vicinity of Bellefontaine, Logan county. They were married in Eddyville, Iowa, on the 31st of December, 1843. Mr. Newell subsequently rented a farm which he cultivated for eleven years, following which he purchased a homestead in Concord township, which he improved and cultivated until his death on the 12th of May, 1898. The mother, who is now ninety-three years of age, makes her home at Fredonia, Iowa, with her son Robert M. Newell. At the time of his demise the father owned four hundred acres of well improved and highly cultivated land. There were nine children in the family: Elizabeth, the widow of Dr. Cushman of Tacoma, Wash-





MR. AND MRS. THOMAS NEWELL



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS DOWSON



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT F. NEWELL



ington, and the mother of Congressman Frank Cushman; Thomas, our subject; Cardine, the wife of L. A. Riley, of Wapello; Hugh, who died at the age of eighteen months; Mary, the wife of Ed Curtis, of Concord township; John and William, both of whom are living in Nebraska; Robert M., a resident of Fredonia, Iowa; and Hattie, who became the wife of B. F. Sidnas, of Norton county, Kansas.

Thomas Newell acquired a good common school education, during which time he was also qualifying himself for an agricultural career. He began farming for himself at the age of thirty, by cultivating land in Concord township which he had purchased previously. Later he disposed of this and bought seventy acres, which formed the nucleus of his present homestead. Intelligence and good judgment in the administration of his affairs, as well as energy and close application, have enabled Mr. Newell to make a success of his vocation. He now owns three hundred and sixty-five acres of land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation with the exception of forty acres. It is divided into two separate farms, both of which are highly improved, his homestead being located on section 22. He is a capable business man as well as agriculturist and has successfully directed his energies along financial lines. As a stockholder and officer of both the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts and the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction he has given evidence of possessing more than average skill both as an organizer and executive.

On the 5th of April, 1877, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Newell and Miss Mary Dowson, who was born in Concord township on the 2d of November, 1853. She is a daughter of the late Thomas and Mary (Robson) Dowson, who were born, reared and married in England, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1849. Her father was from Cumberland county and her mother from the city of Sunderland. When they arrived in this country they located in Cincinnati but soon afterward removed to St. Louis, where Mr. Dowson followed the carpenter's trade for four years. At the end of that time they came up the Mississippi river to Muscatine and from there to Louisa county. Here they entered forty acres of government land in Concord township, for the breaking of which Mr. Dowson exchanged carpenter work. They continued to reside upon that place for twenty years, during which time he added to his holdings another sixty acres. Selling this to advantage he then purchased one hundred and twenty acres two miles farther south, where they lived until their retirement in 1893. They had met with more than average success and at that time owned three hundred and seventy-five acres of good tillable land. When they withdrew from the farm they went to Columbus Junction, Iowa, to live but Mrs. Dowson passed away January 16, 1894, since which time the father, who is now eighty-nine years of age, spends a large portion of his time among his children. To Mr. and Mrs. Dowson were born eleven children but only six are now living: Jane, the wife of C. Bonnicksen, of Columbus Junction; Mary, now Mrs. Newell; Robson, who is a farmer of Concord township; John, a resident of Clear Lake, Iowa; William, who lives in Nebraska; Charles Henry, of Detroit; three who died in infancy; and Thomas and Florence E., who are also deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Newell have seven children, two daughters and five sons, in order of birth as follows: Mary C., who received a high-school education, is now the wife of Rudolph Schlichting, of Concord township; Robert J., who is married, and was for a time a civil engineer in the government service in Idaho but recently established an office of his own at Boise City, is a graduate of Highland Park College, where he pursued his engineering course; Hugh R., also married, pursued a two years' course in agriculture at Ames in the Iowa State College and is now farming in Concord township, this county; Jesse D., who is married and farming in Grand View township, also had training as an agriculturist, having spent two years in the Agricultural College of Nebraska; Thomas R., a graduate of the high school at Columbus Junction, is now taking his third year in the civil engineering department at Ames College; Edwin O., also a high school graduate, has had one year in the State University at Iowa City; Frances B. is attending high school and studying music.

In matters of religion the views of Mr. Newell coincide with the teachings of the Universalist church. In politics he is a democrat and has always taken an active interest in matters of a governmental nature. He has served as township assessor for eight terms, while for one term he was county supervisor and for several years he was secretary of the school board. Mr. Newell is held in high regard in Concord township as a business man, agriculturist and private citizen, and numbers among his friends many of the comrades and schoolmates of his early boyhood.

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#### WILLIAM O. SYPHRIT.

A well improved farm of one hundred and eighteen acres on section 36, Wapello township, gives evidence of the success which William O. Syphrit has attained in life, for he started out in the humble capacity of a farm hand but by hard work and economy has gained a substantial place among the citizens of Louisa county. He was born in Grand View, Louisa county, August 22, 1866, a son of Joseph B. and Harriet (McNattan) Syphrit, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. They came to the west in an early day, settling first in Grand View but later removing to a farm in Wapello township. The mother died there in 1893. She had eight children, of whom two are deceased. In 1898 the father was again married, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth Helverson.

William O. Syphrit remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority and in the meantime he acquired his education in the district schools near his father's home. He then began working by the month as a farm hand for T. G. Jamison. He carefully saved his earnings and in due course of time was enabled to begin farming on his own account, renting the land which he today owns, comprising one hundred and eighteen acres in Wapello township. He has made some improvements on the place, which is now one of the valuable

properties of his section of the county. He gives his time and attention to general farming and each year gathers good harvests as a result of his earnest labors.

It was on the 25th of February, 1892, that Mr. Syphrit married Miss Ada M. Hamilton, who was born in Louisa county, January 15, 1869, a daughter of Alexander and Susanna Hamilton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Syphrit have been born a daughter and son: Elma H., who is a high-school student; and Charles H.

The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Syphrit is a republican in his political views. His fraternal relations connect him with the Odd Fellows' Lodge, No. 19, at Wapello. Having spent their entire lives in Louisa county, Mr. and Mrs. Syphrit are well known here and the hospitality of their own pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends and acquaintances.

#### . ALVIN L. HOLIDAY.

Alvin L. Holiday, who has been cashier of the Grand View Savings Bank ever since its organization, was born in Taylor county, Iowa, on the 28th of October, 1861, a son of Abraham and Malinda (Murry) Holiday. The father was a native of Illinois and the mother of Indiana, in which state they were also married. They continued to reside in Indiana until 1854 when they removed to Taylor county, Iowa, where Mr. Holiday purchased a farm which he continued to cultivate until 1899. Disposing of their property in that year they went to Miami county, Kansas, where Mr. Holiday bought another farm which he later sold, and then purchased land in Elk county, Kansas. There the mother passed away in 1904, at the age of seventy-one years, and the father, who is now eighty-two, is living retired. Eleven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Holiday, as follows: Charles W., who is living in Austin, Kansas; G. M., a resident of Carthage, Missouri; J. F., of New Mexico; F. E., a graduate of Harvard University, who is teaching in the Manual Training School of Kansas City; Minnie H., now Mrs. Navel, of Severy, Kansas; Carrie A., the wife of J. B. Telferd, of Brookville, Kansas; Leslie O., of Holden, Missouri; O. A., who is residing in Woodward, Oklahoma; Laura and Clarence, who are deceased; and Alvin L., our subject.

In the common schools of Iowa Alvin L. Holiday acquired his preliminary education. This was later supplemented by a course in the State Normal School of Kirksville, Missouri, of which institution he is a graduate. Mr. Holiday began his career as a teacher before he had attained his eighteenth year, at which time he left home, continuing to be identified with that profession until 1903. During the twenty-two years he taught Mr. Holiday, among other positions, held the principalship of the high schools of Winfield, Henry county, Iowa; Brighton, Washington county, this state, Columbus Junction and Letts. In 1903



he became associated with some business men in the organization of the Grand View Savings Bank, of which institution he has ever since been the cashier.

Mr. Holiday was united in marriage on the 3d of July, 1894, to Miss Alice Harris, who is a native of Platte county, Missouri, and a daughter of J. P. and Sumyra Harris. The parents, who were also natives of Missouri, resided in that state until in the '60s when they came to Iowa, settling in Page county. There Mr. Harris purchased a farm which he operated until a short time prior to their demise, when they retired to New Market. He passed away at the age of seventy and his wife at seventy-eight years. Unto their union were born eight children: Margaret, William D. and Mattie A., all of whom are deceased; J. S., who is living in New Market; Docia E., who is deceased; Christopher L., also a resident of New Market; Alice, now Mrs. Holiday; and one son who died in infancy.

Mrs. Holiday is a graduate of Amity College of College Springs, Iowa. She taught for several years after the completion of her education, then pursued a course in the Homeopathic Medical College of Cleveland, Ohio, from which she was graduated. After finishing her professional studies Mrs. Holiday became a medical missionary and spent some time in Africa in this work. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Holiday have been born two daughters: Frances R., who was born on the 23d of September, 1895, and is now attending high school; and Vivian A., whose birth occurred on the 22d of August, 1899, and who is now an attendant of the grammar school.

The religious connection of the family is with the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which organization both Mr. and Mrs. Holiday take an active and helpful part. They are both highly regarded in the town and always give their assistance in promoting every movement which will in any way tend to elevate the moral, intellectual or spiritual standard of the community.

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#### EARL P. SMITH.

Another of Louisa county's native sons to adopt farming for their vocation is Earl P. Smith, who is engaged in the cultivation of a ninety acre tract in Wapello township. Mr. Smith is the eldest son of William C. and Olive L. (Parsons) Smith, the father a native of Henry county, Illinois and the mother of Jefferson township, this county. He was born on his father's homestead in Jefferson township on the 26th of November, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had three children, the other two being: D. Howard, and Nellie.

Having been born and reared on a farm, after the completion of his education, which was acquired in the common schools, Earl P. Smith elected to become an agriculturist, feeling that he was better adapted both by training and preparation for this vocation than any other. He is now renting ninety acres of his father's land upon which he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, meeting with very good returns from both.

On the 14th of September, 1909, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Helen Wiederrecht, a daughter of George and Lizzie (Hanley) Wiederrecht, both natives of Iowa and residents of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Wiederrecht have four children, Mrs. Smith being the third in order of birth. The others are as follows: Daisy, the wife of Frank Johnston, of Columbus City; Lela, who is teaching at Columbus Junction; and Joseph Fred, who is living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been blessed with the birth of one son, William C., so called from his paternal grandfather, who was born on the 9th of July, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, and he votes the republican ticket, although he has always been too deeply absorbed in the development of his personal affairs to participate in township politics. Mr. Smith is meeting with very favorable returns from his endeavors and has every prospect of being one of the substantial agriculturists of the township, among the citizens of which both he and Mrs. Smith have many friends.

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#### ROBERT J. REANEY.

Robert J. Reaney, who is engaged in the lumber and coal business at Columbus Junction and is one of its most respected citizens, is a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, born July 21, 1856. He is a son of Joseph and Eliza (Turkington) Reaney, both of whom were born in Ireland. The father emigrated to America with his family in 1862 and took up his residence at Chester, Pennsylvania. In 1871 he arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, and settled on a farm where he continued until his death, which occurred in 1888. The mother is still living, having arrived at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, and makes her home with her children. In the family were eight children, namely: Robert J., of this review; Thomas, who lives at Waterloo, Iowa; Samuel, whose home is in South Dakota; Mary, who is the wife of Michael Blankinhorn, of Louisa county; Joseph L., also of Waterloo; Sadie, who is the wife of Rev. J. W. Poole, of Ottumwa; William L., a resident of Waterloo; and Elizabeth Ellen, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Thompson.

At the age of six years Robert J. Reaney came to America with his parents and since the age of fifteen has made his home in Louisa county. He received his early education in the district schools and after laying his text-books aside learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for thirteen years. After his marriage he engaged in farming for two years and then entered the clothing business at Columbus Junction. After three years he sold out and went into the lumber business, buying out Eckman & Baldwin. Later he formed a copartnership with his brother-in-law, Charles Eliason, under the name of Reaney & Eliason, which has become one of the leading concerns of the kind in the county. The firm handles lumber, coal, sewerpipe, lime, cement and wall plaster. The house possesses the confidence of the public on account of its fair dealing and its reputation and success are well deserved.

In January, 1877, Mr. Reaney was married to Miss Belle Eliason, who was born near Letts in Muscatine county, Iowa, a daughter of Levi and Mary (Epperly) Eliason. Mr. Eliason was a native of Indiana and was one of the early settlers of Muscatine county, arriving there when there were few white inhabitants in that region and the land was subject to entry. He became one of the successful farmers of the county and is now deceased. Mrs. Eliason is still living and has arrived at the age of eighty-two years. In their family there were eight children, six of whom survive. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Reaney: Elsie M., who is at home; James E., now a student of the State University at Iowa City; Roy W., deceased; Agnes B., who is attending high school; and Louisa E.

Politically Mr. Reaney gives his support to the republican party. He has taken an active part in securing the success of his party in Louisa county and served as representative to the thirty-second and thirty-third general assemblies. He has also most acceptably filled the office of mayor of Columbus Junction and now occupies a chair in the city council. He is a sincere friend of education and for several terms was a member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with Lodge No. 245, A. F. & A. M.; Lodge No. 22, K. P.; and Lodge No. 365, I. O. O. F., all of Columbus Junction. He has taken special interest in the Odd Fellows Lodge and has filled all the chairs in the local organization of that order. He and his family are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is a member of the board of trustees and secretary of the board. Mr. Reaney is a man of large public spirit and has not hesitated to accept responsibility when called upon to do so. He has served as president of the fair association and also as president of the local Chautauqua Association, and has discharged all his duties promptly and effectively, thus gaining the confidence and esteem of the people throughout the entire section tributary to Columbus Junction.

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#### O. M. CAVIN.

O. M. Cavin, who fills the responsible position of cashier of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Columbus Junction, is classed among the progressive and enterprising citizens of Louisa county. He demonstrated his business ability for a number of years in railway service before he became connected with the bank, thus laying the foundation for efficiency which has proved of practical benefit in his present vocation.

He was born at Morning Sun, Iowa, June 25, 1873, and is a son of R. H. Cavin, by trade a blacksmith. In the public schools Mr. Cavin, of this review, received his early education. Later he entered Washington Academy, from which he was graduated in June, 1892, being then nineteen years of age. He entered the employ of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway in 1898, being connected with the department of bridges and buildings. In October, 1900,

he was made foreman and three years later was appointed station agent, serving at Brighton, Washington and Columbus Junction. In January, 1909, he received the appointment as division agent, and in March of the same year was elected a member of the board of directors of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Columbus Junction. Since January 1, 1910, he has served as cashier of the bank, having relinquished his position with the railroad upon his appointment to that office.

In October, 1904, at Washington, Iowa, Mr. Cavin was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Fisher, a daughter of Robert Fisher. To this union four children have been born; Alice, Mildred, Edna and Robert. Always energetic and zealous in his work, Mr. Cavin has maintained a high standard of citizenship and wherever he has lived has won the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been associated. In politics he supports the principles and candidates of the republican party and has served to the general satisfaction of the people as a member of the city council and of the school board. He is a sincere believer in the teachings of the Christian religion and is a valued member of the United Presbyterian church.

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#### FRANK STACEY SEARL.

Frank Stacey Searl is the well known and popular proprietor of the Central Hotel at Oakville. His birth occurred at Toolsboro, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 26th of November, 1862, his parents being Robert and Eliza Searl, who were natives of Ohio and Iowa respectively. The father was a horse dealer. When our subject was five years of age the family removed to Ohio because of the ill health of the mother, who was suffering from consumption. She lived only a few years after locating in that state and the father survived her for but one year. Unto them were born eight children, two of whom died in infancy, while the parents were residents of Toolsboro, this county. The others were as follows: William, living in Dayton, Ohio; Frank S., of this review; Charles, who is the proprietor of a button factory at Keithsburg, Illinois; Lydia, who died as a young girl in 1880; Fannie E. who is the wife of H. L. Hoffmeier, of Chicago; and George, who when last heard from, four years ago, was a chef in Kansas City, Missouri.

Frank S. Searl attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education, and, being left an orphan at a tender age, was early thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood. He was employed in various positions but has spent the greater part of his life in hotel and restaurant work. For a time he worked as a button cutter in the button factory at Keithsburg, Illinois, and for fifteen years he was a resident of New Boston, that state. Two years ago he came to Oakville, Iowa, and took charge of the Central Hotel, which he has since conducted in a highly capable manner. Oakville is an enterprising, growing little town which is made the point of many business transactions through

commercial travelers, hence the hotel enjoys a first-class patronage and, being located in the heart of a rich farming district, Mr. Searl is able to secure fresh table supplies at a reasonable rate, so that the place is noted for the excellency of its cuisine.

Mr. Searl has been twice married. His first wife bore the maiden name of Minerva Livingston and was a daughter of Robert and Minerva Livingston of Illinois. Mr. Livingston still survives but has lost his wife. By his first wife Mr. Searl had one daughter, Irma Elaine, whose birth occurred on the 30th of April, 1894. Nine months later the mother passed away. For his second wife Mr. Searl chose Miss Sophia Herr, a daughter of Gregor Herr, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. Unto them have been born four children, as follows: a son who was born November 4, 1902, and died the following day, being buried in the family lot in the cemetery at New Boston, Illinois; Friend Stacey, whose birth occurred on the 31st of October, 1903; Feh Maxine, whose natal day was March 7, 1905; and Robert Herr Lloyd, who was born October 7, 1910.

In politics Mr. Searl is a republican, loyally supporting the men and measures of that party. His wife attends the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. His fellow townsmen have ever found in him a representative and progressive citizen who has made good use of his opportunities and as the years have gone by has prospered as the result of his unfaltering industry. In business relations he is found to be reliable and straightforward, while those who meet him socially entertain for him warm regard as the result of his appreciation for true friendship and all that the term implies.

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### JOHN HENRY OTTO.

Among the farmers of Louisa county, now deceased, was John Henry Otto, who died February 21, 1910, the announcement of his death causing a general expression of regret throughout the community where he was well and favorably known. He was for over fifty years an active factor in the agricultural development of the county and gained marked success as a business man and farmer.

He was born in Marthasville, Missouri, now called Hopewell, in August, 1835, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Rolfe) Otto, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. The parents emigrated to America and made their home for a number of years in Missouri, later removing to Washington county, Iowa. They are both now deceased. In their family were nine children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: George, of Portland, Oregon; Louisa, the wife of F. Feigenbaum, of Wauneta, Kansas; John Henry, the subject of this sketch; Hortense, who became the wife of Henry Drogemeyer, of Burlington; Christian and William, both of whom are deceased; Herman, who is now living in Wapello; and Mary, who married Henry Wagoner, of Ankeny, Iowa.

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PUBLIC FILE

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS



MRS. JOHN H. OTTO



JOHN H. OTTO





John Henry Otto possessed advantages of education in the district schools and in his youth and boyhood assisted his father in farm work, thus early becoming acquainted with the value and importance of labor. At twenty years of age he secured employment at Burlington, Iowa, in the lumber business but four years later was married and began farming on his own account by renting about sixty-five acres of land eight miles from Burlington. After a year on this place he removed to Wapello and rented eighty acres for one year. He next rented a farm of one hundred and twenty acres for two years and after changing his location once more he bought two hundred acres in Louisa county in 1865, upon which he established his home. He was highly successful in farming and stock-raising and became the owner of over nine hundred acres of good land, which he greatly improved. He was a man of excellent financial judgment, as is indicated by the fact that he served with general acceptance to stockholders and to the people of the community as president of the Wapello State Bank.

On the 11th of August, 1859, Mr. Otto was married to Miss Charlotte Annie Weckman, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Ringler) Weckman. There were two children in the Weckman family, the other being Frederick, who made his home in Missouri and is now deceased. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Otto, the youngest of whom died in infancy, the others being: Henry, of Louisa county; Edmund and George F., both deceased; William, who resides in Louisa county; Leona, at home; Anna Charlotte, the wife of L. W. Gerth, of Wyconda, Missouri; and Herman Peter, also at home.

Mr. Otto cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president of the United States and during all his subsequent life saw no reason to change his political views, always being a stanch supporter of the republican party. In religious faith he was a Methodist and was a liberal contributor to that denomination. He was a kind father, a true friend and a citizen who through many years of well directed effort assisted very materially in advancing the permanent interests of Louisa county. His acknowledged honesty and high business standing gave him a prominent place in the regard and confidence of his fellowmen and no history of the county would be complete without adequate mention of him.

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#### WILLIAM OTTO.

William Otto, who is one of the popular and enterprising citizens of Louisa county and occupies one of the most pleasant homes to be found in this section of the state, is a native of this county. He was born May 6, 1868, being a son of John H. and Charlotta Anna (Weckman) Otto, a record of whom appears above. He received his education in the district schools and grew to maturity under the parental roof, assisting his father on the home farm as the years passed and thus becoming well acquainted with the duties and responsibilities pertaining to agriculture and stock-raising. In 1894 he entered the milling business at Wapello, in which he continued for six years, during which

time the plant was twice visited by fire. In 1900 he transferred his activities to the hardware business, with which he was successfully connected for eight years. At the end of the time named he took up his residence on a portion of his mother's farm and now cultivates two hundred and fifty acres. The efficiency of his management is clearly indicated by the appearance of the well cultivated fields and the prosperity that has attended his efforts as a general farmer and stock-raiser. His mother, who has now arrived at the age of seventy-three years, makes her home with his family.

On the 12th of July, 1894, Mr. Otto was married to Miss Ellen Limbocker, a daughter of J. P. and Amanda (Fish) Limbocker. There were nine children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Limbocker: Anna E., the widow of W. A. Henderson, of Page county; Elmer, deceased; Eva, who married J. J. Graner, of Henrietta, Texas; Carrie, who is now the wife of Edward Graner, also of Henrietta; Harry, of Louisa county; Ellen, now Mrs. William Otto; John L., of Davenport, Washington; Clyde L., of Springwater, Oregon; and Ernest Ray, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Otto have become the parents of three children: Helen M., who was born July 27, 1897; one who died in infancy; and William, Jr., who was born March 8, 1911.

Mr. Otto gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is allied with the progressive element of that organization, believing that the party has within itself the ability and integrity to command the affairs of the nation. He now very acceptably fills the office of township trustee. Fraternally he is a valued member of the Masonic order and also of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen, and his religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church. As he takes a lively interest in his work he is meeting with deserved success financially, and, being in the prime of life, he may safely look forward to many years of increasing responsibility.

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#### OLIVER W. MCGREW, M. D.

Dr. Oliver W. McGrew, who for the past six years has been engaged in the practice of his profession in Grand View, was born in Ohio on the 10th of July, 1873, and is a son of A. J. and Abbie (Armstrong) McGrew, also natives of the Buckeye state. They resided in Ohio until 1892 when they migrated to Iowa, settling on a farm in Louisa county where they spent their later years. Mr. McGrew passed away in 1898, but his wife survived until 1911. Of their union there were born six children: Mary, who is the wife of E. A. Sheets, of West Virginia; Finley B., who is a resident of Louisa county; E. S., of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Addie, who is living on the old homestead; Oliver W.; and Anna, who passed away at the age of thirty-six.

The preliminary education of Oliver W. McGrew had been practically completed when his parents located in Iowa, at which time he was nineteen years of age. He then took up the profession of teaching with which he was identified

for seven years. He subsequently entered the Keokuk Medical College, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of doctor of medicine with the class of 1905. Immediately following he came to Grand View, where he established an office and has ever since followed his profession. During the period of his residence here he has succeeded in building up a very satisfactory practice in both the town and surrounding country.

Dr. McGrew was married in 1894 to Miss Hattie Klotz, who was born in Louisa county on the 5th of November, 1875, and is a daughter of T. J. and Anna (Stapp) Klotz. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Indiana, but they were married in Iowa, and the father subsequently engaged in farming in Louisa county. Seven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Klotz, namely: R. L., who is living in Columbus Junction; Ada, the wife of William Probst, of West Liberty, Iowa; Hattie, now Mrs. McGrew; Effie, who married J. D. Darrow, of Columbus Junction; Meda, the wife of William Blender, of Carthage, Illinois; Pearl, who married Levering Palmer, also of Carthage; and Paul, who lives in Columbus Junction.

Unto the union of Dr. and Mrs. McGrew have been born three children: Faye, who was born on the 8th of April, 1895, a graduate of the high school; Edwin A., born on the 5th of October, 1898, now attending school; and Carlton K., whose birth occurred on the 28th of November, 1910.

The family always attend the religious services of the Methodist Episcopal church in which both Dr. and Mrs. McGrew hold membership, and in that congregation they number many friends.

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#### RICHARD PETERS.

Richard Peters, who is engaged in raising and feeding stock in connection with the tilling of his farm in Elm Grove township, was born in Wales on the 2d of April, 1853. He is a son of Lewis and Jane (Humphrey) Peters, who spent their entire lives in Wales. Seven children were born to them, five of whom are still living.

The education of Richard Peters was required in the common schools of his native land, where he resided until he was thirty-one years of age. Having decided that better opportunities were to be found in the United States, in 1884 he took passage with his wife and family for America. They immediately located in Louisa county, Iowa, where for three years he worked as a farm hand by the month. At the expiration of that time he rented land which he operated until 1902. By means of thrift and energy, united with good management, he was able to save the necessary capital to buy his present homestead. His farm contains one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he has partly improved, and there he engages in general farming, in connection with which he makes a specialty of feeding and raising stock.

Mr. Peters was married in 1876 to Miss Gwen Davis, who was born in Wales, and to them have been born nine children: Jane, the wife of Arthur Williams, of Nebraska; Anna, who married John Arthur; Lewis, who is residing in this county; Ruth, the wife of E. Arthur; and R. J., Elizabeth, Isabel, Mary and Daniel, all at home with their parents.

The family always worship with the Presbyterian denomination as the mother holds membership in that church. Ever since naturalization conferred upon him the rights of suffrage Mr. Peters has cast his ballot in support of the men and measures of the republican party, considering that its policy was best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. He has never been an office seeker but meets the requirements of good citizenship by appearing at the polls on election day. He has had no occasion to regret the transference of his allegiance to the government of the United States and although he has met with obstacles and hardships during the period of his residence in this country he has been able to dominate conditions and has acquired a good home and valuable property.

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#### RAY G. WHISLER.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and forty acres in Marshall township pays tribute to the skill and supervision of Ray G. Whisler, who was born in this township on the 11th of August, 1876. He is a son of Francis and Mary Ann (Grismore) Whisler, natives of Ohio, who removed to Iowa soon after their marriage. They arrived in Burlington, Des Moines county, on the 31st of December, 1862, and the following day they came to Louisa county. For the first three years the father rented land which he cultivated but subsequently purchased the farm upon which their son Ray G. is now residing. His original holding was but seventy-six acres, but he later added to this until he had acquired one hundred and forty acres which he cultivated until February, 1901, when he retired and removed to Wapello, where he and his wife now live. The thrift and industry of their youth now makes it possible for them to enjoy in the evening of life all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whisler were born three children: Agnes, the wife of J. Christman, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Arthur, who is living in Louisa county; and Ray G.

After the completion of his preliminary education, in the acquirement of which he attended the common schools of his native county, Ray G. Whisler spent two years in college. He decided to adopt agriculture for his vocation, preferring the independence and freedom of life in the open to the confinement and exactions of either a business or professional career. In 1909 he purchased from his father the old homestead and there he is now engaging in general farming, in connection with which he is also raising stock.

On the 15th of November, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Whisler and Miss Mabel Fitzsimons, a daughter of William and Eva (Morgan) Fitzsimons, whose other children were: Olive, the wife of C. A. Blanchard, of Louisa county; Earl, who is a resident of Louisa county; Mary, who married Lloyd Patterson, of Louisa county; Myrtle and Walter, who are living at home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whisler have been born two children: Nina V., whose birth occurred on the 14th of February, 1903; and one who died in infancy.

Fraternally Mr. Whisler affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Modern Brotherhood of America. He has always voted for the candidates of the republican party since attaining his majority and has held various township offices, now serving his third term as clerk. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which organization they take an active interest. Mr. Whisler is one of the well informed and intelligent agriculturists of his township and in the pursuit of his vocation adopts the more modern and scientific methods.

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#### EDWARD S. STINEMAN.

Edward S. Stineman, who is engaged in the cultivation of seventy-five acres of land in Grand View township, was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 2d of November, 1881. His parents are J. P. and Josephine (Dickerson) Stineman, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Iowa. They were married in this state and subsequently settled on a farm, Mr. Stineman continuing to follow agricultural pursuits from then until 1905, since which time they have lived retired in Muscatine. To their union seven children were born: Blanche, who married William Thompson, of Louisa county; David, who is a resident of this county, and owns real estate in Canada; Della, the wife of Freddie Boston, of Muscatine; Edward S., our subject; Abner, who is living in Muscatine; Ninett, who is at home; and one who died in infancy.

Reared in the country Edward S. Stineman obtained his education in the district schools of Louisa county, after the completion of which he assisted his father about the homestead. At the age of twenty-three years he began his agricultural career and for two years thereafter he farmed as a renter. At the expiration of that time he had sufficient capital to enable him to buy seventy-two acres of land on section 24, Grand View township. He has ever since continued to reside upon this property which he has greatly improved during his ownership, and fifty-five acres of which is in a high state of cultivation.

On the 29th of December, 1905, Mr. Stineman was united in marriage to Miss Pearl Longstreth, who was born in Nebraska, on the 18th of July, 1887. Her parents, John and Hattie (Willier) Longstreth, were natives of Iowa, in which state they were also married, and soon thereafter they went to Nebraska where they remained for a short time and then moved to Missouri. After spend-

ing five years in the latter state they returned to Iowa, settling on a farm in the vicinity of Letts, where they are now living. Seven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Longstreth: Jessie, the wife of Henry Tomfield, of Michigan; Pearl, now Mrs. Stineman; Julia, who is still at home; Margaret, who is living in Michigan; and Ida, Dollie and Freddie, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Stineman have a son and a daughter: Fern, who was born on the 22d of September, 1907; and Oliver E., whose birth occurred on the 26th of July, 1909.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Stineman hold membership in the Presbyterian church and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political views coincide with those of the republican party, for whose candidates he casts his ballot, but he has never been an office seeker. He is one of the enterprising young agriculturists of Grand View township, and is meeting with success in the pursuit of his vocation.

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### MILTON D. HANFT.

Milton D. Hanft, who for many years was identified with the agricultural interests of Louisa county but is now living retired in Columbus Junction, was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, on the 26th of September, 1853. He is a son of Jonathan N. and Helena (Smith) Hanft, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. In 1864 the parents came to Iowa, settling in Columbus City township, where the father bought forty acres of land. As success attended his efforts Mr. Hanft added to his holdings from time to time until at his demise he owned two hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land. During a large portion of his life he farmed on a very large scale, and at one time he was cultivating two thousand acres of land, for which purpose he often employed twenty teams. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hanft there were born thirteen children: William H. and John, both of whom are deceased; Milton D., our subject; Jacob A., who is a resident of Columbus Junction; Theodore F., who is living on the old homestead; George S., of Columbus Junction; Emma, the wife of Reuben Heindel, also of Columbus Junction; Martha, who married George Wren, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Cora, who died in infancy; John F., who is living in Columbus Junction; Sarah, the wife of A. J. Willett, of Columbus Junction; Edward, who is deceased; and Louis, who died in infancy. The father passed away in Columbus Junction in 1888.

The first eleven years in the life of Milton D. Hanft were spent in his native state, in whose public schools he began his education, which was completed in the district schools of Louisa county. While still a very young lad he assisted his father in the operation of the farm, remaining a member of the parental household until he was twenty years of age, after which he rented some land of his father. He continued to farm as a renter for nine years, during which time he acquired the capital essential to the purchase of a homestead. In 1882 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Columbus City township and at various times he

added to this until he now owns three hundred and seventeen acres. Thereon he engaged in general farming and stock-raising, both of which ventures netted him very good returns. He was one of the enterprising and energetic agriculturists of the township and in addition to his excellent farm Mr. Hanft now owns two lots in Columbus Junction and the eight acres where he now resides, as well as a business block in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Mr. Hanft was married on Christmas of 1875, to Miss Catharine Cateamp, a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Berry) Cateamp, both of whom have now passed away. The father was a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania, and of their union were born nine children: Abraham, who is deceased; Jane, who married William Bretz, of Columbus City township; Henry, who is also a resident of Columbus City township; Catharine, now Mrs. Hanft; Lewis, of Columbus City township; Ida, the widow of Thomas Starks, of Columbus City; Leona, who married Benjamin Cateamp, of Columbus City; and Frederick and Charles, both of whom died in infancy.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hanft were born three daughters and four sons, as follows: Amanda, who is the wife of Edward Pretz, of Columbus City township; Louis S., and Todd Milton, also living in Columbus City township; Maud, who is residing in Columbus Junction; John H., who is living in West Liberty, Iowa; Laura, who is living at home and teaching school; and Hale H., who is also at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanft hold membership in the United Brethren church, and he votes with the democratic party, considering that its policy is best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. He has held a number of minor offices and is now serving as township clerk. He has been living retired since 1907, having so capably directed the efforts of his early manhood as to have acquired sufficient property to enable him to now enjoy the ease and comfort assured by a steady and dependable income.

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### JESSE P. KNOTT.

Jesse P. Knott is an enterprising and progressive farmer of Concord township, owning and operating eighty acres of land on section 21. His birth occurred in that township on the 8th of October, 1878, his parents being Edward and Lavina Knott, natives of Louisa county. The father has devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and is now engaged in the operation of a farm of twenty-five acres on section 28, Concord township. Unto him and his wife were born five children, as follows: Jesse P., of this review; William A., who is a resident of Columbus Junction, Iowa; two who died in infancy; and Franklin, who passed away at the age of two years.

Jesse P. Knott enjoyed the advantages of a high school education, graduating at Columbus Junction as one of a class of eighteen in 1898. When twenty-



two years of age he secured a position as fireman with the Union Pacific Railroad Company, being employed in that capacity for eleven months, while during the following year he was similarly employed by the Rock Island Railroad Company. Subsequently he served as ticket agent and yard master at Columbus Junction for six years. On the expiration of that period he bought a tract of land comprising one hundred and seven acres but soon afterward disposed of the property and purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section 21, Concord township. He has brought the place under a high state of cultivation and improvement and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them. He likewise owns property in Oklahoma.

On the 25th of November, 1900, Mr. Knott was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth O. Latta, of Muscatine county, Iowa, her parents being J. M. and Rebecca Latta, both natives of Ohio. The mother of Mrs. Knott is a cousin of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Latta had eleven children, five of whom are yet living, as follows: William, who is a resident of Muscatine, Iowa; Mrs. Knott; Edith, the wife of R. S. McDaniel, of Louisa county; Pearl B., of Riverside, Iowa; and Miles, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Knott have two children: Edward M., who was born on the 25th of May, 1908; and William A., whose natal day was September 20, 1909.

In politics Mr. Knott is a stalwart democrat, believing firmly in the principles of that party. For six years he held the office of township assessor, ably discharging the duties devolving upon him in that connection. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has filled all of the chairs in the local lodge of the latter order and has been sent as a representative to the grand lodge. His religious faith is indicated by his affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife belongs. His entire life has been passed here and his fellow townsmen know him as a straightforward and reliable business man and citizen, who well merits the esteem that is uniformly accorded him.

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### JACOB LIEBERKNECHT.

Jacob Lieberknecht, who passed away in Concord township on the 30th of June 1903, was long numbered among the representative residents and prosperous agriculturists of Louisa county, owning four hundred and sixty acres of land at the time of his death. His birth occurred in Pennsylvania on the 30th of August, 1840, his parents being Nicholas and Catherine (Reibold) Lieberknecht, both of whom were natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in 1840 and were married in Pennsylvania. Nicholas Lieberknecht worked at the shoemaker's trade until 1841 and devoted the remainder of his life to general agricultural pursuits. About 1850 he came to Iowa, taking up his abode among the



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MR. AND MRS. JACOB LIEBERKNECHT



pioneer settlers of Louisa county. In the conduct of his farming interests he won a gratifying measure of success, owning eight hundred acres of valuable land at the time of his demise, which occurred in 1872. His wife was called to her final rest in 1901. Unto them were born nine children, as follows: Jacob, of this review; Margaret, the deceased wife of Nicholas Lang, of Muscatine county, Iowa; John, who died when twenty-one years of age; Mary, the deceased wife of Christ Werner, of Louisa county; Henry, William and Louis, all of whom are residents of this county; Benjamin, who passed away when forty-nine years of age; and one who died in infancy.

On attaining his majority Jacob Lieberknecht started out as an agriculturist on his own account, operating a portion of the old homestead farm until the time of his marriage. Following that important event in his life he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of the home place, the property being now in possession of his widow. Subsequently he augmented his holdings by additional purchase and at the time of his demise owned four hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, all under a high state of cultivation except a tract of one hundred and fifty acres of timber land on section 25, Concord township.

On the 23d of December, 1875, Mr. Lieberknecht was united in marriage to Miss Rosina Blauer, a native of Switzerland and a daughter of Frederick and Anna (Rubie) Blauer, who were likewise natives of that country. They crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1862, settling on a farm near Grand View, Iowa, and operating the same until 1874. In that year Mr. Blauer disposed of the property and bought a tract of eighty acres west of town, residing thereon until the time of his retirement. Both he and his wife spent their remaining days in the home of our subject, Mr. Blauer passing away on the 4th of May, 1890, while Mrs. Blauer was called to her final rest on Thanksgiving Day, 1889. Their union was blessed with eleven children, namely: Frederick, who passed away in Ringgold county, Iowa, when sixty-three years of age; Anna, the wife of George Walter, Sr., of Grand View, Iowa; John, who died in Ringgold county, Iowa, when seventy-one years of age; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Peter Schmoker and passed away in Louisa county when forty years of age; Christ, who is a resident of North Dakota; Margaret, the wife of John Dankert, of Muscatine, Iowa; Mary, the wife of Charles Pantel, of Louisa county; Susie, the deceased wife of Daniel Anthony, of Keokuk county, Iowa; Mrs. Lieberknecht; Katrina, the wife of Louis Wiederrecht, of Louisa county; and Ulrich, who died in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Lieberknecht had seven children, but the two first born died in infancy. Hilton E., whose birth occurred on the 6th of May, 1881, wedded Miss Ethel Browning and resides in Louisa county. William Herbert, whose natal day was October 6, 1883, operates the homestead farm in association with his mother and brother. The next in order of birth also died in infancy. Liela Mabel, whose natal day was March 16, 1887, is a high school graduate and also attended Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa. She is now the wife of Harold Williams, of Grand View, Iowa. Anna Ruby, whose birth occurred on the 22d of May, 1890, is a high school graduate and has followed the profession of teaching for two years. She also has a good musical education.

Mr. Lieberknecht gave his political allegiance to the republican party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to various positions of public trust. He assisted in organizing several school districts of Concord township and was a member of the school board for a number of years. He served as a member of the board of trustees of Grand View township and likewise held the office of justice of the peace. During the last eleven years of his life he acted as county supervisor, ably discharging the duties devolving upon him in that connection. He died in the faith of the Congregational church on the 30th of June, 1903, and was laid to rest in Grand View cemetery. The period of his residence in Louisa county covered more than a half century and as he had gained an extensive and favorable acquaintance within its borders, his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His widow, who still resides on the old homestead, has now attained the age of fifty-eight years. She and her children are also faithful members of the Congregational church.

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#### FRANK L. BEIK.

One of the highly successful farmers and stockmen of Louisa county is Frank L. Beik, who with his brother is engaged in the cultivation of four hundred and ninety-two acres of land in Port Louisa township. Mr. Beik was born in the township where he is now residing on the 25th of June, 1872, and is a son of Jacob and Emma (Jackson) Beik, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. An extended biographical record of Jacob Beik, deceased, appears on another page of this volume.

The boyhood of Frank L. Beik was spent in a manner very similar to that of other boys of his circumstances in the more sparsely settled communities. He attended the district school during its brief sessions and when not thus engaged assisted about the farm in the performance of such tasks as were assigned by parental authority. He remained a member of the paternal household until he had attained his majority at which time he began working for himself. The first year he rented land but at the expiration of that period he purchased one hundred and thirty-nine acres on section 12, Port Louisa township, upon which he continues to reside. Later he and his brother formed a partnership and they now own four hundred and ninety-two acres of well improved land, practically all of which is highly cultivated. As they are extensive feeders of stock their fields are almost entirely devoted to the cultivation of grains which are best adapted for that purpose.

On the 12th of April, 1894, Mr. Beik established a home for himself by his marriage to Miss Mollie Kammerer, who was born in Louisa county December 12, 1873. She is the eldest daughter and second child of J. and Caroline (Charles) Kammerer, natives of Germany from which country they emigrated to the United States in an early day, locating upon a farm in Louisa county which they cultivated until their demise. They were the parents of the follow-

ing children besides Mrs. Beik; John, who is a resident of Muscatine county; and Harry, Bert, Charley and Otto, all of who are living in this county. The mother passed away September 27, 1885, but the father is still living in Port Louisa township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beik have been born five children: Marcus, whose birth occurred June 24, 1895; Emma C., who was born on the 5th of January, 1899; Bertha M., born November 23, 1900; Leona, born July 8, 1907; and Lucille L., born in January 29, 1911.

The family are all earnest Christians and fraternally Mr. Beik is identified with Grand View Lodge, No. 724, I. O. O. F. His political support he always accords the candidates of the republican party, taking an active and helpful interest in all local affairs. He is now serving as a township trustee and he has been a member of the school board. Mr. Beik is well known in the community where he has spent his entire life and where the comrades of his youth are the friends of his manhood, which is as great a tribute as it is possible to pay to the character of any man.

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### GOTTLLOB SCHLEICHERT.

Among the worthy natives of Germany who have become citizens of the United States must be numbered the late Gottlob Schleichert, who for over thirty years was engaged in farming in Grand View township. He was born in the province of Saxony on the 17th of September, 1843, and there he spent the first thirty years of his life, emigrating to the United States in 1873. His parents died in the fatherland, but two brothers and two sisters are still living in the old country. Mr. Schleichert, who was an agriculturist, came to Louisa county, shortly following his arrival in the United States, where he bought sixty-six acres of land on section 24, Grand View township. He continued to operate this until his demise on the 6th of January, 1911, at which time it was well improved and in a fine state of cultivation.

On the 14th of October, 1873, in Louisa county, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Schleichert and Lena Stock, who is also a native of Germany. They became acquainted on the boat when crossing the Atlantic, and soon after their arrival in this country were married. Mrs. Schleichert's mother passed away in the old country in 1872, but her father was residing in Red Cloud, Webster county, Nebraska at the time of his demise in 1898. One of her sisters is still living in the fatherland and she has one brother who is a resident of Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Schleichert were born four children, as follows: Otto, who is engaged in farming in Louisa county; Lydia, who married Harley Krahle, of Muscatine county, Iowa; Amelia, the wife of Orlen Kemp, of Louisa county; and Elma, who married Oliver Hoffman, of Muscatine county, where he follows the trade of masonry.

The family are all communicants of the German Lutheran church, in which Mr. Schleichert also held membership, and his political support he gave to the republican party. He always took an active interest in township affairs, particularly those of an educational nature, and for fourteen years was a member of the local school board. A man of energy and perseverance Mr. Schleichert was highly respected in the community where he resided, having proven himself in every way a worthy and desirable citizen.

### E. S. CURTIS.

E. S. Curtis, one of the well known and enterprising agriculturists of Concord township, owns a highly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. His birth occurred in Chillicothe, Illinois, on the 14th of August, 1853, his parents being S. C. and Harriet (Briggs) Curtis. The father was born in Steuben county, New York, on the 9th of September, 1826, while the mother's birth occurred in Lincolnshire, England, on the 13th of October, 1831. Harriet Briggs accompanied her parents on their emigration to the new world when fourteen years of age, the family home being established in Constantine, St. Joseph county, Michigan. The paternal grandparents of our subject also took up their abode in Michigan, in which state S. C. Curtis and Harriet Briggs celebrated their marriage on the 11th of March, 1852, the ceremony being performed at Three Rivers, Michigan. From that state they removed to Illinois, and in 1855 to Muscatine county, Iowa. Mr. Curtis was successfully engaged in business as a railroad contractor until the fall of 1857, the last contract which he executed being the deep cut from the Island to the town of Letts, Iowa. Subsequently he took up his abode at Letts, conducting a hotel and livery stable and also having charge of a farm near the corporation limits of the town. He likewise embarked in business as a stock dealer and grain merchant, continuing operations along those lines until called to his final rest. On leaving Letts he purchased a farm three and a half miles southeast of the town, operating the same until the spring of 1868, when he disposed of the property and removed to Concord township. There he bought a tract of land comprising six hundred and forty acres, a quarter section of which is now in possession of our subject. He acted as the fire arbitrator of the Rock Island Railroad Company and also had supervision of all the live-stock shipping points of the corporation, while in 1876 he was appointed by the Rock Island system to combine interests with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. On the 23d of December, 1853, he had joined the Masonic fraternity, becoming a member of Hawkeye Lodge at Muscatine, Iowa. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife and children also belonged. His demise occurred at Columbus Junction on the 12th of February, 1894, and his remains were interred in the Letts cemetery. His widow continued to reside at Columbus Junction until a short time prior to her death

but spent her last days in the home of our subject, passing away on the 6th of December, 1905. She was likewise buried in the Letts cemetery. By her marriage she became the mother of eight children, as follows: E. S., of this review; Frances M., born August 18, 1856, who is the wife of T. H. Hull, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; John Q., whose birth occurred December 5, 1858, and who passed away on the 27th of January, 1861; W. L., born February 8, 1861, who is a traveling salesman residing at Columbus Junction, Iowa; T. J. L., whose natal day was December 23, 1864, and who lives on a farm in Concord township, Louisa county; Nellie F., born December 16, 1868, who gave her hand in marriage to E. W. Murdock of Columbus Junction and passed away on the 12th of November, 1889; Albert E., who was born on the 8th of January, 1872, and died September 4, 1872; and Caroline, twin sister of Albert, who died on the 20th of September, 1879.

E. S. Curtis, whose name introduces this review, supplemented his preliminary education by a course of study in the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant. He was married when a young man of twenty-two and subsequently spent three years on a farm in Concord township. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode at Fredonia and in August, 1878, was appointed by the Rock Island Railroad Company to take charge of their stock and grain shipping business at Fredonia. He was likewise appointed postmaster, serving in that capacity until 1887. During this period he also conducted a mercantile establishment at Fredonia. In 1887 he returned to his farm and has since devoted his attention to the tilling of the soil and the raising and feeding of stock. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of highly improved and valuable land and has the finest waterworks system in the county. Mr. Curtis has traveled as live-stock solicitor for Baugh Brothers of Chicago for five years.

On the 23d of December, 1875, Mr. Curtis was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Newell, a native of Concord township, this county, and a daughter of R. F. and Christina Newell, who are mentioned at greater length on other pages of this work. She obtained her early education in her native township and subsequently attended the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children. Maud, whose birth occurred on the 19th of May, 1878, is the wife of A. W. Newell, of Denver, Colorado, by whom she has four children: Mary L., Thomas E., Faith C. and Agnes B. Robert S., whose natal day was February 14, 1881, taught school for one term after his graduation from the high school and in 1905 completed a course in animal husbandry at Ames. The following year he devoted six months to post-graduate work at the same place and in September, 1906, was made professor of animal husbandry in the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at West Raleigh. He is the father of two children, Robert and Kenneth. Caroline F. Curtis, who was born in February, 1887, is a high school graduate and also has a good musical education. Benjamin H. Curtis, whose birth occurred on the 7th of March, 1889, is also a high school graduate and resides on a farm in Louisa county. Edward C., whose natal day was April 13, 1894, is now attending the high school at Columbus Junction.



Mr. Curtis is a republican in his political views and supports the men and measures of that party by his ballot. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to Lodge No. 107 and Chapter No. 92 at Columbus Junction. Both he and his wife are charter members of the Eastern Star lodge at that place. They have gained an extensive circle of friends throughout the community, their genuine personal worth commending them to the confidence and esteem of all with whom they come in contact.

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### JOHN F. WALTER.

A prosperous agriculturist of Grand View township is John F. Walter, who owns one hundred and ninety acres of land upon which he engages in general farming and stock-raising. His birth occurred in the township where he is now residing on the 20th of September, 1863, being the eldest son of George and Anna (Blauer) Walter.

The father is a native of Germany and the mother of Switzerland, and they emigrated from their respective countries to the United States. They met and were subsequently married in Muscatine county, following which event they located on a farm. From that period until the death of his father Mr. Walter cultivated rented land. Being the only heir he inherited the homestead of his parents, containing fifty acres, upon which he resided until 1876. Disposing of his property at that time he bought two hundred acres of land east of Grand View, which he operated until his retirement in 1907. When he withdrew from active farming Mr. Walter owned three hundred and thirty-six acres of land, all of which was well improved and in a good state of cultivation. This he has recently divided among his four sons. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are now residing in Grand View, enjoying in their latter days the ease and comfort rewarded them for their hard work and self-denial during their youth. Besides our subject the other members of their family consisted of: George, who passed away on the 8th of December, 1910, at the age of forty-one; Martha, who was eight years of age at the time of her death; Fred, who is an agriculturist of Louisa county; William, who resides in Letts; Benjamin, who died at the age of two years; and one who died in infancy.

Practically the entire life of John F. Walter has been spent in the township where he is now residing, the district schools of which provided him with his education. After acquiring sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to begin his life work, which he had already decided should be farming, he devoted his entire attention to assisting his father with the work of the homestead. At the age of twenty-six years, he began his independent career as an agriculturist by renting land which he cultivated for a year. At the expiration of that time he bought his present homestead, which contains ninety acres located on section 26. During the period of his occupancy he has wrought many improvements in this property, which he has brought to a high

state of cultivation. He is operating this in connection with the one hundred acres of the old homestead which was presented to him by his father.

Mr. Walter was married February 19, 1890, to Miss Ella Haas, who was born in this county on the 29th of April, 1868. Mrs. Walter's father, the late Peter Haas, was a native of Germany, from which country he emigrated to the United States with his parents when a youth of fifteen. Mrs. Haas, who prior to her marriage was Emma Judiesch, was born in Switzerland and when a child of five years she was brought to the United States by her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Haas were married in Muscatine county, and began their domestic life on a rented farm, in the cultivation of which he was engaged for several years. When they had acquired the necessary capital they bought land in Louisa county, and there the mother, who is now sixty-seven years of age, still resides, but Mr. Haas passed away in April, 1910, at the age of seventy-one years. Their family numbered ten children: Frank, who passed away at the age of twenty-six years; Elizabeth, the wife of George Haschar, now living on the old Haas homestead; John, who died when he was six years of age; Ella, now Mrs. Walter; Mary, who married William Allen, of Louisa county; George, who is a resident of Louisa county; Emma, the wife of Edwin Kluckholm, of Garner, Iowa; Lulu, who became the wife of Herman Lohse, of California; Edward, who is unmarried and living in Grand View; and Esther, who died when she was eighteen years of age.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walter have been born seven children: Earl, who was born on the 9th of February, 1892, and was graduated from Muscatine high school with the class of 1911; Ruth M., born on the 25th of September, 1894, at home; Lulu F., born on the 10th of February, 1897, and now attending high school; Mildred L., born on the 10th of October, 1901, and attending the district school; Elsa L., born on the 26th of July, 1903; and Donald K., whose birth occurred on the 13th of August, 1906. Their eldest child died in infancy.

In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Walter are Congregationalists, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being identified with the Grand View lodge. The political views of Mr. Walter coincide with those of the republican party, for whose candidates he always casts his ballot, but he has never had official aspirations. He has a wide acquaintance in Louisa county, and that he possesses the fine qualities and noble traits which win him lasting friends is attested by the fact that he continues to hold the regard of the comrades of his youth.

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#### FRED C. SCHOMBERG.

Fred C. Schomberg, devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits, is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and eighty acres on sections 16 and 21, Columbus City township. His birth occurred in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 11th of December, 1878, his parents being Jacob and

Catherine Schomberg, both of whom are natives of Germany. It was in the year 1850 that they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in this county. At the present time, however, they are residents of Muscatine, Iowa. They reared a family of seven children, all of whom are yet living.

Fred C. Schomberg enjoyed the advantages of a high-school education and was reared to manhood under the parental roof. On attaining his majority he rented the old homestead farm, devoting his attention to its operation for seven years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a tract of one hundred and eighty acres on sections 16 and 21, Columbus City township, and has since been busily engaged in its further cultivation and improvement. In connection with the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and has gained a place among the substantial and representative agriculturists of the community.

In December, 1905, Mr. Schomberg was united in marriage to Miss May Chown, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of George and Mary Chown, who were born in Virginia and Iowa respectively. They are still residents of this county and are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. Mrs. Schomberg, who is a graduate of the high school at Columbus Junction, taught school for several years prior to her marriage. She is now the mother of three children: Florence L., Alice L. and Catherine L.

Mr. Schomberg is a democrat in politics and is now serving as a school director, the cause of education having ever found in him a stanch friend. Externally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America at Columbus Junction, while both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of the Reformed church. They have always remained residents of this county and the circle of their friends is almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

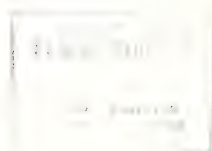
#### DANIEL H. WESTBROOK.

An extensive landowner and successful farmer and stock-raiser of Grand View township is Daniel H. Westbrook, who during the thirty-eight years of his agricultural career has acquired fifteen hundred acres of land in Louisa and Muscatine counties. He was born in Chemung county, New York, on the 8th of January, 1841, his parents being James H. and Clarissa (Scott) Westbrook, also natives of the Empire state. His father was of Holland Dutch parentage and his mother of Dutch and Scotch extraction. He has a chart showing the family tree, dating back to 1746. His great-grandfather on his mother's side was a colonel in the Revolutionary war under General Washington, while on his father's side his great-grandfather was a paymaster in the Continental army.

After his marriage James H. Westbrook engaged in farming in his native state until 1851, when with his family he removed to Pennsylvania. After remaining there for a short time they went to Illinois, where Mr. Westbrook farmed for



MR. AND MRS. D. H. WESTBROOK



seven years. At the expiration of that period they came to Iowa, locating in Bremer county, where they bought property and there Mr. Westbrook lived until his retirement to Letts. They continued to reside in the latter place until they were too feeble to live alone, following which they made their home with their son Daniel H. Both had attained the age of eighty-six years when they passed away, the father dying February 22, 1895, and the mother November 26, 1896.

In their family were thirteen children: Andrew J. and James B., both residents of Oklahoma City; Daniel H., our subject; Edward D., a resident of the state of Washington; Hector H., who is living in Louisa county; Caroline, who married David Olin, both now deceased; Lydia Ann, Clarissa, and Laura M., all of whom are deceased; Emma, the wife of John Wilson, of Minnesota; Roanna, who married S. K. Diller, of Seattle, Washington; Delphine, the wife of Robinson Dowson, of Louisa county; and William Penn, who is deceased.

Daniel H. Westbrook, who was a lad of seventeen years when his parents settled in Iowa, obtained his education in the common schools of New York and Illinois. Reared on a farm he was early trained to the work of the fields, having instilled in him from his boyhood the habits of thrift and industry characteristic of his Dutch and Scotch ancestry. At the age of twenty-two years he began working for himself, naturally adopting the vocation for which he had been trained from boyhood. During the forty-eight years which have elapsed since he first engaged in agricultural pursuits upon his own responsibility Mr. Westbrook has acquired fifteen hundred acres of land, all of which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Westbrook married Miss Malinda Wagner on the 9th of January, 1866. She is a daughter of Phillip and Elizabeth (Gower) Wagner, her birth having occurred in Louisa county on the 25th of November, 1846. She has a record of the family tree that traces back to 1779. Mr. Wagner was a native of Ohio, having been born in the vicinity of Dayton on the 3d of March, 1808. In his early manhood he removed to Indiana, and there he married Miss Gower, who was a native of Maryland, her natal day having been the 13th of August, 1813. They came to Louisa county in 1844, arriving here in the month of January, having made the trip across the country by wagon. Mr. Wagner, who was a pump-maker, followed his trade during his younger days but after coming to Iowa he engaged in farming. He was one of a family of ten children, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of his youngest sister, Mrs. M. B. Decamp, of Fruitland, Iowa, who is now eighty years of age. Mrs. Wagner, who passed away on the 18th of March, 1884, had three sisters and one brother: Nancy, Martha, Catherine and John, all of whom are deceased. The death of Mr. Wagner occurred on the 20th of April, 1885, one year after the demise of his wife. Their family consisted of five children: Lucinda, who became the wife of Alec Hildebaugh, of Letts; Malinda, now Mrs. Westbrook; George W., who married Martha Small, both of whom are now deceased; and Clarinda and Louisa, also deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Westbrook were born eleven children: Ella, the wife of Lem Dickerson, of Louisa county; Philip W., who is now residing in Montana; George W., who passed away at the age of fifteen months; Bessie F., who is at

home; James H., who is a resident of Rowe, New Mexico; Emma, the wife of Frank Frye, of Louisa county; Martha, the wife of R. W. Furnas, of South Dakota; Fred S., who is living in Reliance, South Dakota; Harrison, who is at home; and the eldest and youngest, both of whom died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Westbrook also reared two children, a son and daughter of her brother, who passed away in 1894 and was survived but two years by his wife. The daughter, Mabel E., is attending college, while his son, Phillip H., has been given a business college education. Both are now of age.

The religious affiliation of the family is with the United Brethren church, of which organization Mr. and Mrs. Westbrook are members of long standing. Definite aim and determination of purpose have been salient factors in the success of Mr. Westbrook, who despite obstacles and discouragements possesses the tenacity of will which enabled him to dominate conditions.

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### RICHARD COTTER.

The distinction of being the most extensive landowner in Elm Grove township belongs to Richard Cotter, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on his homestead which contains six hundred acres. He was born in Franklin county New York, on the 14th of April, 1844, and is a son of William and Mary (Brodrick) Cotter, natives of County Cork, Ireland. Upon their arrival in the United States they first located in the state of New York where they resided until 1850. From there they removed to Kankakee, Illinois, where they remained for thirteen years. In 1863 they came to Louisa county, settling on the farm in Elm Grove township where their son Richard is now living. Here Mr. Cotter passed away on the 13th of January, 1885, but his wife survived until December 19, 1895. Of the six children born unto them all are deceased but Richard. In order of birth the others were: Margaret, Edward, Ellen, Julius and Mary, Richard having been the third.

In the acquirement of his education Richard Cotter attended the common schools of Illinois until he had obtained such knowledge as he deemed essential to enable him to start in business life for himself. Having been born and reared on a farm, with the work of which he early became familiar, naturally he elected to become an agriculturist. After leaving school he gave his entire time and attention to the cultivation of the homestead, under the supervision of his father. Upon the death of the latter, the property came into the hands of Mr. Cotter, who has since continuously resided there. He now owns six hundred acres of excellent land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. During the period of his ownership he has made extensive improvements on the place, having erected some very fine buildings, and now has one of the most valuable properties in Louisa county. In connection with the tilling of his fields Mr. Cotter raises a great deal of stock and is an extensive feeder, always keeping on hand a large number of cattle and hogs as well as horses.



For his wife and helpmate Mr. Cotter chose Miss Jennie Blair, their union being solemnized on the 27th of March, 1879. Mrs. Cotter is a daughter of W. T. and Sarah (Duncan) Blair, who were born near Loudon, Tennessee, and were married there December 6, 1845. After their marriage they lived there two years and then came to Louisa county. With the exception of one year they resided here continuously until their death, the father dying July 31, 1875, and the mother September 23, 1899. They were the parents of the following children: James, who is a resident of Buffalo, Kansas; Samuel, of Walter Oak, Oklahoma; Joseph Blair, who is living in Columbus Junction, Iowa; William of Wilmington, North Carolina; and Jennie.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cotter has been blessed with eight children: William, Francis, Cleveland, James, Dollie, Edwin, Helen and Pauline. They are all still at home with the exception of Francis, who has passed away.

Mr. Cotter is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church and his wife of the German Reformed. He votes with the democratic party, but has never been an aspirant to public honors or the emoluments of office, finding his time fully occupied in the administration of his extensive agricultural interests. He is meeting with most gratifying success and in addition to his attractive homestead, which is located on section 36, Elm Grove township, he owns a section of land in Stratford, Texas.

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#### LOUIS A. BILLICK.

One of the representatives agriculturists and stockmen of Oakland township is Louis A. Billick, who was born January 5, 1872, on the farm where he is now residing. He is a son of James and Susan (Jacobs) Billick, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Virginia, in which state they were married and spent the early days of their domestic life. In 1855 they migrated to Iowa, locating on a farm in the vicinity of Columbus City which they rented. Mr. Billick engaged in its cultivation until 1861, at which time he purchased two hundred acres of land on section 13, Oakland township. As success attended his efforts he was able to add to his tract at divers times until he had acquired four hundred and sixty acres of fertile land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He passed away September 27, 1887, but Mrs. Billick survived until the 6th of July, 1899. Of the eleven children born unto them seven are deceased, while those living are: Louis A.; Thomas J., on the old homestead; James H., who is a resident of Kansas; and Ella, the wife of Frank Lutz, of Johnson county.

The boyhood and youth of Louis A. Billick were spent on the farm where he is now located, his education being acquired in the district schools in the vicinity. After the death of their father he and his brother Thomas, who is unmarried, acquired the old homestead. They engage in general farming, mak-



ing a specialty of the raising and feeding of cattle, which has proven to be a very lucrative venture.

On the 10th of March, 1905, Mr. Billick was united in marriage to Miss Maud Sheridan, who was born in Columbus Junction, April 6, 1878, the only child of Abner and Rosetta (Maxwell) Sheridan, who were among the pioneer settlers of Louisa county. The mother is deceased but the father still survives and continues to make his home in Columbus Junction. Mr. and Mrs. Billick have three children: Louis Raymond, born September 1, 1906; Eva Ruth, November 12, 1907; and Leland Bruce, July 9, 1908.

Fraternally Mr. Billick affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, being a member of the Coneville Camp, and in politics he is a republican. He has never taken a very active part in township affairs but has served as trustee. He is one of the prosperous farmers of Oakland township where he is widely and favorably known, having spent practically his entire life in the community where he is now living.

#### WILLIAM WESTFALL.

William Westfall, who is engaged in farming in Elliott township, is a native of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred October 18, 1867. He is a son of Reuben and Jane (Racer) Westfall, the mother a native of Virginia. The father passed away in 1870 but the mother still survives and makes her home in Oakville. Of the five children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Westfall two are deceased: Albert, who was the third in order of birth; and Thomas, who was the youngest member of the family. Those surviving are as follows: Jacob, the eldest, who is a resident of Louisa county; Lettie, the wife of John Haight, also of this county; and William, who is the fourth in order of birth.

Born and reared on a farm William Westfall has always lived in the country and obtained his education in the district schools. As is the case with the majority of farmer lads he was early assigned duties and responsibilities about the homestead which were increased as his strength developed. After laying aside his text-books he gave his entire attention to assisting his widowed mother in the operation of the farm until his marriage. Immediately thereafter he purchased twenty acres of land south of Oakville upon which he located, continuing its cultivation for five years thereafter. At the expiration of that period he disposed of that place and bought forty acres in Elliott township, whereon he resided for eighteen months. He then sold it and bought his present farm which contains ninety-five and a half acres. During the period of his occupancy he has wrought many improvements upon his place and now owns one of the valuable and attractive properties of the township. Although engaged in general farming Mr. Westfall makes a specialty of the raising and feeding of hogs, which venture has proven to be very profitable.

Mr. Westfall married Miss Bazzie Dotson, a daughter of David and Lydia (Bier) Dotson. Her father is deceased but the mother is surviving and makes her home in Newport, this county. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Westfall has been blessed with a son and daughter: Louva Oleda, now attending high school; and Virgil Eldon.

Mr. Westfall holds membership in the Odd Fellows lodge of Oakville, and both he and his wife are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he has ever remained true to the principles of democracy, the policy of which party he deems best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. He has never been an office seeker, however, always having felt that his own best interests required his undivided attention in the direction and supervision of his business.

### FARRIE GAST.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and twenty-seven acres does credit to the agricultural skill of Farrie Gast, who is one of the capable farmers of Grand View township. A native of Louisa county his birth occurred in the vicinity of Grand View on the 17th of February, 1870, his parents being Harmon and Sarah (Stineman) Gast. The father came from Germany and the mother from the state of Ohio, but they were married in Iowa. Immediately thereafter they located on a farm where they resided until 1878, when they removed to Grand View, where Mr. Gast operated a mill for several years. He withdrew from this to engage in carpentry work and contracting, with which vocation he continues to be identified. The mother passed away on the 15th of April, 1906, but the father still survives at the age of sixty-six years, and continues to make his home in Grand View. Four children were born of their union: Margaret, who married H. E. Lang, of Louisa county; Rush F., who is married and living in Grand View; Ora E., who is keeping house for her father; and Farrie, our subject.

At the age of fifteen years Farrie Gast left the parental roof to begin his career as a wage earner. His early education was acquired in the common schools, but after working for several years he pursued a business course. In 1896 he went into the mercantile business, following this vocation for three years. Disposing of his stock at the end of that time he invested his proceeds in sixty-three acres of land, upon which he has ever since resided. He has effected many improvements in his property during the period of his occupancy and has added to his tract from time to time until his entire holdings now aggregate one hundred and twenty-seven acres. The land is well improved and ninety acres is in a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Gast was the first agriculturist of his township to attempt to raise alfalfa and now has a fine field of fourteen acres planted to this product.

On the 6th of January, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gast and Miss Maggie Kallenbarger, who was born in this county on the 18th of February, 1866. She is a daughter of G. D. and Sophia (Winkleman) Kallenbarger, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Ohio, but they were married in Muscatine, Iowa. For several years thereafter Mr. Kallenbarger engaged in farming as a renter. Afterward he removed with his family three miles north of Wapello and bought a farm upon which he resided for several years. Mrs. Kallenbarger passed away in 1888, since which time Mr. Kallenbarger has lived with his children: Margaret, now Mrs. Gast; Elizabeth and Amanda, twins, both now deceased, Elizabeth having died at the age of twenty-seven and Amanda at eighteen years; G. Adam, who died when he was forty; Nettie, the wife of John Idelbaugh, of Grand View; Annie, the wife of Harry Buster, who died when she was thirty years of age; and Daniel F., who passed away in August, 1910, at the age of twenty-eight years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gast have been born six children: Ruth M., who was born on the 18th of November, 1898; one who died in infancy; May E., who was born on the 1st of February, 1901; Paul H., who was born on the 10th of April, 1903; Floyd H., born on the 31st of October, 1905; and D. F., whose birth occurred June 18, 1906.

In religious belief the family are members of the Plymouths. Mr. Gast has steadily advanced during the twelve years he has been following farming and is now regarded as one of the successful and prosperous citizens of his township.

### JOSEPH ELBRIDGE BOLTZ.

A well tilled farm of Morning Sun township is that comprised in the one hundred acre tract of Joseph Elbridge Boltz, which is located on section 33. Mr. Boltz was born in Louisa county on the 11th of January, 1866, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Edwards) Boltz, who came to Iowa in the early years of their marriage, locating on a farm on which they continued to reside until 1891, when they retired to Morning Sun. They were the parents of the following children: Joseph E.; William S., who is living in Green Ridge, Missouri; Eleanor, who is deceased; Nancy Emma, the wife of William Reynolds, of Upland, California; Mary Eva, who married Charles Morrison, of Morning Sun; and Oscar, who is living in Fairfield, Iowa. Mr. Boltz, who served for three years in the Union army, gives his political support to the candidates of the republican party, while both he and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church.

The early years of Joseph Elbridge Boltz were spent on the farm, in the work of which he assisted while pursuing his studies in the district school. He remained at home with his parents until he had attained his majority following which he rented one hundred acres of land, which he continues to cultivate.

He met with a fair degree of success and in 1902 by reason of his industry and careful expenditures was able to purchase the farm in the operation of which he had so long been engaged. Since purchasing the property Mr. Boltz has made many improvements and all of his fields are now well drained and under a high state of cultivation.

On the 17th of October, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Boltz and Miss Sadie Miller, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Erisman) Miller, who were the parents of six children, as follows: Jacob, who is a resident of Kansas; George, who is deceased; Flora, the wife of George Swearingen, of Sac City, Iowa; Frank, who is living in Winfield, Iowa; Charles, a resident of Santa Ana, California; and Sadie. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Boltz have been born two children: Bertha and Valeda America.

Fraternally Mr. Boltz is a member of the Knights of Pythias and his political allegiance is given the republican party. He always takes an active interest in local affairs and has filled some of the township offices. At the present time he is serving as trustee, the duties and responsibilities of which position he is ably and conscientiously discharging.

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#### CHARLES L. DUNCAN.

Charles L. Duncan, who is making a specialty of the feeding and raising of cattle and hogs on his farm in Union township, was born in Louisa county, on the 18th of August, 1807, being the second son of Samuel H. and Sarah E. (Edwards) Duncan. The father, when a child of five years, migrated from his native state of Tennessee to Iowa with his parents. He has for many years been identified with the agricultural interests of Louisa county and both he and his wife continue to reside upon the old homestead in Union township. Unto them were born nine children: J. K.; Charles L.; R. L.; Oscar E.; Guy and Garry, twins; Grace Adela; one who died in infancy; and Clyde, deceased.

Reared on the home farm, in the acquirement of his education Charles L. Duncan attended the common schools and later pursued a high school course. He assisted in the cultivation of his father's farm until twenty-one years of age and then began farming for himself. For the first four years he rented land, during which time he accumulated the necessary capital to enable him to become a property owner. He then bought sixty acres, upon which he has since continuously resided, and he is now making a specialty of the raising and feeding of stock. He also owns three hundred and twenty acres in North Dakota.

On the 15th of March, 1894, Mr. Duncan and Miss Minnie May Knaub were united in marriage. Mrs. Duncan was born in Clinton county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of October, 1873, and is a daughter of Henry and Ella Amanda (Sprenkle) Knaub. The parents, also natives of the Keystone state, came to Iowa in 1877, settling in Louisa county, where the father passed away in De-

cember 6, 1899, but the mother still survives at the age of sixty-one years. Twelve children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Knaub, all of whom are living. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have been born three sons and one daughter: Lyle E., who was born on the 12th of April, 1895; Grace I., born on the 7th of March, 1897; Gerald R., whose birth occurred on Christmas day of 1900; and Clyde S., who was born on the 23d of November, 1903. Mrs. Duncan was graduated from the high school at Columbus Junction with the class of 1892, and afterward engaged in teaching until her marriage.

Mrs. Duncan holds membership in the Reformed church, which her husband also attends, and fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as a member of Cotter Lodge, No. 693, in which he has filled part of the chairs. Mr. Duncan gives his political allegiance to the democracy and at the present time is serving as assessor in his township, the duties of which office he is discharging in a manner highly creditable to his constituency.

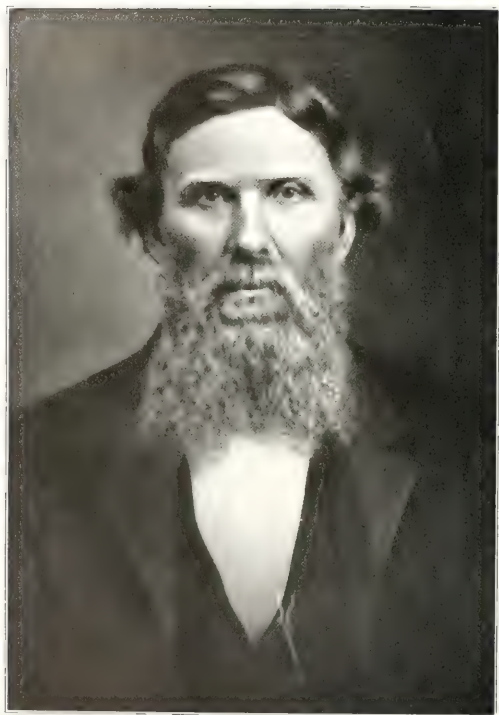
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### ROBERT C. DRYDEN.

Although more than two decades have passed since the death of Robert C. Dryden, he is still remembered as one of the highly respected and substantial residents of Morning Sun township, his well directed efforts along agricultural lines making it possible for him, at the time of his demise, to leave to his family a most valuable estate. A native of Ohio, he came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1847, and here he continued to reside throughout his remaining years. In early life he had attended the common schools of his native state in the acquirement of an education, and when not busy with his text-books worked in the fields of the home farm, becoming thoroughly familiar with all of the various phases of agriculture. Upon attaining his majority he naturally continued to engage in the occupation to which he had been reared. On coming in this county his mother preempted the farm in Morning Sun township which became the nucleus of his present fine estate. From the first his efforts proved successful and as prosperity came to him he added to his property until at the time of his death he was the owner of four hundred acres of rich land. He carried on general farming, annually reaping abundant harvests from his well tilled fields, and for a number of years was also a representative of stock-raising interests, making a specialty of horses and hogs.

On the 4th of December, 1851, Mr. Dryden was united in marriage to Miss Mary Mickey, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, a daughter of John R. and Sarah (Wasson) Mickey. Her parents, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, came to Iowa in 1835, the father entering land in Louisa county at a time when the Indians were more numerous than the white men and before Iowa had been admitted to the Union as a state. His home was a log cabin, which he erected on his farm, having a clapboard roof and puncheon floor, and equipped with the proverbial latch-string. He spent the remainder of





ROBERT C. DRYDEN



MRS. ROBERT C. DRYDEN





his life in the cultivation of that farm, and after his demise his widow traveled extensively throughout the western states, her death occurring, however, in Denmark, Iowa. In their family were nine children of whom six survive, namely: Mary, who married Robert C. Dryden; John M., a resident of the state of Washington; R. B., of Louisa county; Thomas K., of Macedonia, Pottawattamie county, Iowa; Joseph, who is living in Oakwood, Oklahoma; and James D., of Wichita, Kansas. To Mr. and Mrs. Dryden nine children were born but five have passed away, those living being: Sarah A., the wife of Edson F. Monshower, of Morning Sun township; Clarissa Catherine, the wife of Francis Kern, of Harrison county, Iowa; Laura O., the wife of John Henderson, of Waverly, Coffey county, Kansas; and George H., operating the home farm. There are also fourteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

The death of Mr. Dryden occurred on the 18th of September, 1890. He was long numbered among Morning Sun township's public-spirited citizens, taking a helpful interest in all that pertained to its development and improvement. He gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and was called to fill several minor township offices. He held membership in the United Brethren church and the principles which governed his life were those which spoke for honorable and upright manhood. His widow now resides on a portion of the homestead, which is operated by her son George H. The latter now owns two hundred, three and a half acres of the estate, located on section 17, and is well known and prominent among the younger residents of Morning Sun township as a prosperous and progressive farmer and stock-raiser. He had the benefit of a high-school education, and from an early age has been interested in the political questions of the day, giving his support to the republican party, although he has never sought nor desired public office. He holds membership in the United Presbyterian church and is a young man of excellent character, who has the confidence and good-will of all with whom he comes in contact.

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### RICHARD ARTHUR.

Richard Arthur, one of the worthy native sons of Louisa county, owns and operates a well improved and productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Columbus City township. His birth occurred on the 17th of September, 1870, his parents being Hugh and Elizabeth (Jones) Arthur, who are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. He was educated in the common schools and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. When twenty-one years of age he began the operation of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Columbus City township, the further cultivation and improvement of which has since claimed his time and energies. In connection with the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle and hogs and has met with success in both branches.

On the 2d of April, 1910, Mr. Arthur was united in marriage to Miss Esther E. Williams, a native of Washington county, Iowa, and a daughter of Elias and Maggie Williams, the former born in Wales and the latter in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her parents now reside in Washington county, Iowa. To them were born five children.

Mr. Arthur is a staunch republican in politics but has neither sought nor desired office as a reward for his party fealty. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 693 at Cotter, Iowa, in which he has filled all of the chairs. He has spent his entire life within the borders of Louisa county and is widely recognized as one of its substantial young agriculturists and representative citizens.

#### EDWIN R. MCCORMICK.

Edwin R. McCormick, cashier of the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts, Iowa, was born in Columbus City in 1870, his parents being William M. McCormick and Lizzie D. (Reiner) McCormick. The father, William M. McCormick, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, his mother being of Quaker belief, and tracing her genealogy back to the Prince of Wales. After the death of his parents, William M. McCormick came to Columbus City, Iowa, in 1870, shortly after his arrival accepting a position with Colton & Garner in a general merchandise store, where he remained until 1882, at which time he and W. H. Hughes opened a dry-goods store in Columbus Junction, Iowa. Selling out his interest in 1888, Mr. McCormick came to Letts and took charge of the Letts Co-Operative store, at that time one of the largest stores of its kind in the state. In 1894 he resigned this position to accept the position of cashier of the Citizens Savings Bank, then being organized, with which institution he continued to be identified until his demise in October, 1905.

The mother, Lizzie D. McCormick, was born in Washington county, Iowa, her parents being John F. and Harriet (Maxwell) Reiner. She continues to make her home in Letts, near her children, Edwin R. and Max J. McCormick. She and William M. McCormick were married in Columbus City, Iowa.

In the acquirement of his education, Edwin R. McCormick attended the public schools of Columbus Junction until 1890, when he with his parents moved to Letts. After graduating from the Letts high school, he pursued a special course at Highland Park College, Des Moines, and upon his return to Letts, entered the bank as assistant cashier, and was appointed cashier after the death of his father in 1905, having been connected with the bank for nearly fifteen years. The Citizens Savings Bank is well and favorably known as one of the largest and strongest banks in Louisa county.

On March 4, 1903, Mr. McCormick was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Garrett, a native of Louisa county, and a daughter of Alexander M. (Dick) and Laura (Dill) Garrett. Her parents, who are both natives of

Louisa county, were married at Fredonia, and in 1888 moved from a farm to Letts, where Mr. Garrett has since been connected with the firm of Garrett Brothers, dealers in grain and live stock. In 1910 Mr. Garrett was elected by his constituency to the office of state senator, representing his district in a capable manner. Mrs. McCormick is the second in order of birth in her father's family. A younger sister, Augusta Mae, is the wife of Floyd S. Barnes of Marcus, Iowa, cashier of the First National Bank. The brother, J. Bertram Garrett, lives on a farm near Letts.

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have two young daughters: Harriet, who was born in December, 1904; and Jeanette Laura, whose birth occurred in March, 1909.

Like most men in business, Mr. McCormick has a "hobby," his being the breeding of fine poultry. His flock of Black Langshans has carried off many ribbons and silver trophies at the leading poultry shows of the country. In connection with the banking business, Mr. McCormick handles the largest fire insurance agency in the city, representing the leading fire insurance companies. Mr. McCormick is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of the Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templar, and the Mystic Shriners. Mrs. McCormick is a member of the Eastern Star lodge, the Methodist Episcopal church and other social and religious orders of Letts. While Mr. McCormick votes with the republican party, he has never been a seeker for office, but has held many positions of trust in his community, where he and his wife have hosts of friends.

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#### WALTER F. HALL.

Walter F. Hall, who for more than thirty years has been identified with the commercial activities of Columbus Junction, was born in Louisa county, on the 6th of June, 1842. His parents, both of whom are now deceased, were James G. and Celestia A. (Miller) Hall, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of New York. They came to this county in 1837, settling on the present site of Columbus City where Mr. Hall preempted one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he was cultivating at the time of his death. He passed away in 1876, at the age of sixty-four, but the mother was eighty at the time of her demise. They were both laid to rest in the cemetery at Columbus City. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hall were born ten children, of whom the three eldest died in infancy. The others are: William C. and Morris O., both of whom are deceased; Walter F.; Mary J., the widow of G. B. Williams, a son of Judge Williams of Wapello, who was employed in a wholesale house in St. Louis until his health failed when he returned to Iowa, passing away at the home of Walter F. Hall; Edward L., who is a resident of Jennings, Louisiana; Arthur W., who is living in Colfax, Iowa; and Frances A., the wife of W. H. Hughes of Washington, Iowa.

Reared on the homestead on which he was born, in the acquirement of his education Walter F. Hall attended the common schools. At the age of twenty-three years he began his business career as a druggist in Columbus Junction and for thirty years continued to be identified with that business. He subsequently removed to Colfax, Iowa, where he engaged in the dry-goods business for two years, at the expiration of which period he returned to Columbus Junction. Here he engages in merchandising and for four years he was also postmaster, his term expiring on the 31st of December, 1910.

On the 7th of June, 1883, Mr. Hall and Miss Octavia Jane Brown were united in marriage. Mrs. Hall is a daughter of Dr. I. C. and Ruth M. (Hamlet) Brown, the father a native of Tennessee and the mother of Indiana, but both are now deceased. Four children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Hall: Arthur B., who is advertising manager of the Johnson Educator Food Company, of Boston, Massachusetts; Walter Channing, the assistant cashier of the Louisa County National Bank; Harry O., who is engaged in business with his father; and Hamlet C., who is attending high school.

Mr. Hall, who is a veteran of the Civil war, enlisted in July, 1861, in Company C, Fifth Iowa Infantry, and went to the front where he served for two years. The most severe and closely contested engagement in which he participated was that at Iuka. They went into battle with four hundred and eighty men, two hundred and sixteen of whom were killed or wounded within an hour. Three bullets grazed Mr. Hall, one of which, passing across his right hand, would have killed him had it not been deflected in its course by his canteen, which was badly dented by the encounter. Three men on his left were killed and one on his right. He also took part in the three days battle at Corinth and the Vicksburg campaign. After the surrender of the latter city Mr. Hall was discharged because of disability, returning home in July, 1863.

The candidates of the republican party always receive the support of Mr. Hall. For a time he served as deputy revenue collector. His church relationship is with the Christian church, and that of his wife is with the Presbyterian. Mr. Hall and his family are highly regarded in Columbus Junction, in the social life of which they take a prominent part.

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### JOHN COLTON.

John Colton, who for many years has been engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Union township where he owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres of land, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, in 1839. He is of Irish extraction, his parents, Patrick and Hannah (O'Brien) Colton, having been born and reared on the Emerald isle, whence they emigrated to the United States. Upon their arrival in this country they first settled in Pennsylvania, where they resided for several years. In 1842 they came to Iowa, settling in Louisa county where they spent their remaining days. Here the father passed away in 1856 but

the mother survived until 1870. Ten children were born of their union, six of whom are deceased, while those surviving are as follows: James, who is a resident of Columbus Junction; John; Frank, who is engaged in the dry-goods business in Columbus City; and Thomas, who is also a resident of Louisa county.

He was only a child of three years when his parents settled in Iowa, so John Colton received his introduction to the rudiments of the common branches of learning in the district schools of Louisa county. His father died when he was seventeen and in common with the sons of widows the responsibility of cultivating the homestead devolved upon him and his brothers. He was married at the age of thirty-seven and immediately thereafter settled upon a farm which he had previously purchased and in the cultivation of which he has ever since engaged. He has since added to his original tract and now owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres of fertile land. His is one of the attractive and well kept properties of the township; the improvements are all good; and he has brought the land to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Colton attributes much of his success to the fact that in connection with general farming he has engaged in raising and feeding stock.

Louisa county was the scene of the marriage, in November, 1876, of Mr. Colton and Miss Julia A. McCarthy, who was born in Boston on the 22d of February, 1851, and passed away in this county on the 3d of October, 1910. Mrs. Colton was a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Donohue) McCarthy and came to Iowa with her parents in 1862. She held membership in the Roman Catholic church. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Colton there were born two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Colton has always given his allegiance to the candidates of the democratic party. A residence covering a period of sixty-nine years in this county has served to make Mr. Colton widely known in Union township, the citizens of which entertain for him the regard which is ever accorded to an industrious and energetic man, who conducts his business transactions in an honorable and upright manner.

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### HARVEY E. RITTER.

Industry, perseverance and close application have been the salient characteristics in the life record of Harvey E. Ritter, bringing him to the prominent place which he now occupies in the business circles of Grand View township. Born in Louisa county on the 25th of October, 1880, he is a son of Louis B. and Catherine (Wagner) Ritter, natives of Virginia and Louisa county respectively, their marriage taking place in this county. Following his marriage the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, on the 25th of April, 1904. Later the mother was again married, her second union being with C. Utter, a native of New York, now living retired in Letts. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Ritter were born three sons, all of whom are associated in business, namely: John, residing in

Letts, who married Louise Hebbel, a native of Muscatine county, by whom he has one child, a son, two years of age; Harvey E., of this review; and Walter, who is unmarried and resides in Letts.

At the usual age Harvey E. Ritter was sent to the district schools, and after thoroughly mastering the branches of study therein taught was engaged in work about the home farm for several years. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the fields until the latter's death, after which he took up agricultural pursuits independently on a farm of his own, which he personally operated for many years and to the supervision of which he yet gives his attention. He now owns and conducts a feed mill in Letts, in connection with his brothers, who are also associated with him in his farming interests. All are men of good business ability and sound judgment, who closely watch every detail of their affairs, and thus their success is logical and well merited. Something of the prosperity which has come to Mr. Ritter is indicated by the fact that he now not only owns a very fine home in Letts but also eight other lots, all well improved, which are a source of gratifying annual revenue.

It was on the 28th of March, 1906, that Mr. Ritter was united in marriage to Miss Ina M. Wagner, who was born in Louisa county on the 10th of April, 1885, a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (Blake) Wagner. The parents were born in Pennsylvania and Iowa respectively, and resided on a farm in Louisa county after their marriage, that remaining their home until their death, the father passing away on the 20th of January, 1911, and the mother January 23, 1903. In their family were four children, but two died in infancy, the surviving brother of Mrs. Ritter being Fred Wagner, a resident of Columbus Junction, Iowa, where he is engaged in the merchandise business.

The religious faith of Mr. Ritter is indicated by his membership in the Church of God, to which his wife also belongs, and fraternally he is identified with the Court of Honor at Muscatine. He gives sturdy allegiance to the democratic party but has never sought nor accepted office, preferring to concentrate his efforts upon the conduct of his business affairs. He is one of the most enterprising business men in the vicinity, always ready and willing to do what he can for the general improvement of the township, and is held in high respect as a congenial neighbor, a loyal friend and a valued and representative citizen.

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### GEORGE CHOWN.

The time and energies of George Chown are devoted to the cultivation of his farm which contains two hundred and twenty-eight acres of land. He was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on the 20th of May, 1848, his parents being John and Eliza (Aplin) Chown, natives of Devonshire, England. There they were also reared, and immediately following their marriage on the 5th of July, 1813, they emigrated to the United States, first settling in Wheeling, West Virginia. After several years residence in that city they removed to Zanesville, Ohio,

where they lived for five years, during which time Mr. Chown was engaged in gardening. In 1856 they went to Muscatine county, Iowa, settling on a farm which the father cultivated until his retirement shortly after the demise of his wife in 1874. Thereafter Mr. Chown made his home with his son until within two years of his death when he removed to Columbus Junction where he passed away on the 15th of February, 1904, at 11:30 A. M. Of this union there were born eleven children, among whom were three pairs of twins. Those surviving are as follows: George; Mary, the wife of William H. Foster, of Muscatine county; and Louis, who is a resident of Nichols, Iowa. Of the other eight but two attained maturity—William, who died in the army, and Elizabeth, who was the wife of George Breckenridge. The others all died in infancy.

The education of George Chown was obtained in the common schools of West Virginia and Ohio, following which he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. He began his independent career as a farmer at the age of thirty years at which time he leased his present place, which he cultivated as a renter until 1904. He became the owner of the property in the latter years and now has one hundred and fifty acres, mostly under a high state of cultivation. Here he engages in general farming as well as stock raising, both of which have proven to be very remunerative.

Mr. Chown was united in marriage on the 16th of October, 1878, to Miss Mary Meyers, a native of Muscatine county and a daughter of Henry and Mary (Meyers) Meyers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyers are natives of Germany, whence they emigrated to the United States, going first to St. Louis and in 1854 to Muscatine, Iowa. There the father conducted a slaughter-house for several years and subsequently located on a farm in Lake township. He resided upon his homestead until his retirement after which he made his residence with his son. Mrs. Meyers passed away on the 27th of June, 1895, but the father's demise did not occur until the 17th of September, 1899. They were the parents of nine children: Henry, who is a resident of Louisa county; William, living in Audubon county, Iowa; Louis, who resides in North Dakota; Elizabeth, the wife of L. D. Chown, of Nichols, Iowa; Jesse, who makes his home in Muscatine county; Alice, residing in the same county; Charles and Frank, who died in infancy; and Mary, now Mrs. Chown.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Chown has been blessed with seven children, all but one of whom survive. Ida E., who was born on the 2d of August, 1879, is a graduate of the high school and Iowa State Teachers' College, and has been teaching for twelve years; Minnie L. was born on the 19th of May, 1882; Bessie M., who was born on the 16th of April, 1885, is a graduate of the high school of Columbus Junction; May, born on the 26th of September, 1887, is a high school graduate and taught for a term previous to her marriage on the 31st of December, 1905, to E. Shomberg, a farmer in the vicinity of Columbus Junction; Wilhelmina, who was born on the 20th of September, 1892, died on the 13th of June, 1893; Alice, born on the 6th of June 1894, is attending high school; and Edith A., born on the 9th of May, 1899, is also in school. All of the family are at home with the exception of the one daughter who is married.



Mr. Chown exercises his political prerogatives in support of the candidates of the republican party but not being an aspirant to public honors or the emoluments of office does not prominently participate in local politics. Persevering and industrious he has become recognized as one of the capable and prosperous agriculturists of his community.

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#### GEORGE R. McDILL.

A native son of Iowa, George R. McDill was born in Louisa county, where he has passed his entire life. His eyes first opened to the light of day April 20, 1807, his parents being Joseph B. and Martha (Ronald) McDill, the former of whom was born near Charleston, South Carolina, and the latter in Fayette county, Indiana. The family is of Scotch-Irish descent on the paternal side and of Scotch descent on the maternal side, the early ancestors settling in Vermont. The parents of our subject were married in Louisa county, October 2, 1850, and in 1852 the father began farming in Port Louisa township, where he acquired one hundred and sixty acres of land. In 1867 he disposed of his place and purchased two hundred acres on sections 11 and 12 of the same township. Eventually he became the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty-eight acres. He died in August, 1892, but his wife is still living and makes her home with one of her sons, having arrived at the age of eighty-six years. Before his death Mr. McDill divided his estate among his children, his two daughters receiving their shares in cash, the land being given to his sons. In the family were six children: John, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Mary Belle, the wife of Louis Agnew, of Pawnee City, Nebraska; William M., of Louisa county; Chalmers R., of Fort Morgan, Colorado; Florence E., born in 1864, who became the wife of William L. Curtis, of Columbus Junction, and died in 1897; and George R.

The subject of this review possessed the advantage of attendance at the public schools and continued with his parents until eighteen years of age. He then engaged as clerk in a store, but after two years at this vocation, feeling the importance of a wider educational training, he spent six months at school. He then engaged in farm work until after his father's death in 1891, his portion of the homestead being eighty-eight acres. This land he has since cultivated with marked success and he also rents sixty acres of his brother's land, which he cultivates in connection with his own. His farm is located on section 11, Port Louisa township, and, as it is maintained in excellent order, is one of the most attractive properties in this part of the county.

On the 15th of January, 1902, Mr. McDill was married to Miss Elizabeth Dodder, a daughter of Joseph H. and Margaret (Stineman) Dodder. The father was born in New Jersey and the mother in Ohio, but they were married in Iowa. Mr. Dodder responded to the call of President Lincoln at the time of the Civil war and served valiantly for three years in the Union army. After receiving his



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE R. McDILL AND DAUGHTER



discharge he came to Louisa county, Iowa, and purchased a small farm, which he sold a few years later. He then rented land for four years, after which he bought his father's homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, which he has since increased by the addition of eighty acres, the farm being located in Grand View township. The mother died April 11, 1901, but Mr. Dodder is still living on his homestead. There were five children in their family: Edward H., of Louisa county; Ella C., the wife of John E. McGrew, of Grand View; Elizabeth, now Mrs. George R. McDill; Anna M., who is engaged in teaching school and resides with our subject; and Myrtle, who became the wife of Charles E. Rilliet, of Los Angeles, California, an instructor of mechanical engineering in the Polytechnic high school at that place. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McDill, two of whom died in infancy, the other being Margaret Marian, who was born October 14, 1904.

Mr. McDill and his wife are both strong believers in the Christian religion, he being a member of the United Presbyterian church and she being connected with the United Evangelical church. On account of their many estimable qualities they are both held in highest regard by all who know them.

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#### LOUIS WIEDERRECHT.

Louis Wiederrecht, engaged in general farming, is a native son of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred in 1857. His parents were George and Salome (Sultzbarger) Wiederrecht, natives of Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States where they were married. They subsequently located upon a farm in Louisa county where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Wiederrecht met with success in his agricultural pursuits and added to his realty holdings from time to time until he finally acquired two hundred and seventy-one acres of land, all of which was well improved. Six children were born unto him and his wife as follows: George; Salome, the deceased wife of Henry Leberknecht; Louis; Elizabeth, who married George Kreimer; Fred; and Kate, the wife of Samuel Schafer. They are all residents of Louisa county. The father passed away in April, 1904, the mother's demise having occurred in the preceding autumn.

Louis Wiederrecht obtained his education in the district schools of his native county which he attended until he felt that he was fitted to begin business for himself. He then laid aside his text-books and assisted his father with the cultivation of the fields until he was twenty-seven years of age. Subsequent to his marriage he rented the homestead which he operated until the death of his father, after which he purchased one hundred and thirty-two acres of land which he cultivated for a year and then sold to his brother. He next bought one hundred and fifty-one acres in Port Louisa township which constitutes his present homestead. Since first locating here he has added another fifteen

acres to his holdings, which now aggregate one hundred and sixty-six acres, all of which is well tilled with the exception of fifteen acres of timber on section 18.

On the 29th of April, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wiederrecht and Miss Katie Blauer, a native of Switzerland, from which country she emigrated with her parents when a child of four years. Upon their arrival in the United States they located in Muscatine, but later they bought land in Louisa county. There the parents resided until their retirement from the farm when they removed to Grand View, where they lived with one of their daughters until called from this life, the father surviving for ten years after the mother had passed away. Eleven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Blauer, six of whom survive: Mrs. Wiederrecht, who is the youngest of those living; Mary, the wife of Charles Pantel; Annie, who married George Walters; and Rosa, who became the wife of Jacob Lieberknecht, all natives of Louisa county; Christ, who is a resident of North Dakota; and Maggie, the wife of John Dankert, of Muscatine. Those who have passed away are Fred, John, Elizabeth, Ulrich and Susie. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wiederrecht have been born four children: Vernon, whose birth occurred on the 16th of March, 1887, is a member of the class of 1911 of Cornell College, at Mount Vernon, Iowa; Lola, who was born in 1889, is a graduate of Cornell, and is now teaching at Greene, Iowa; Mable, born in 1891, is a graduate of the high school and is now teaching; Inez, born in 1893, will graduate with the class of 1912 from the high school at Wapello, Iowa.

The family are all of the Methodist Episcopal faith, while his political support Mr. Wiederrecht accords the candidates of the republican party. Although he has never been an office seeker he served on the school board for two years and as constable for one. He is one of the capable and industrious farmers of Port Louisa township and his success is the result of honest and well directed effort.

### HENRY E. LANG.

Henry E. Lang is engaged in the cultivation of two hundred and forty acres on section 15, constituting an attractive homestead of Grand View township. He was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 12th of April, 1866, and is a son of Nicholas and Margaret (Lieberknecht) Lang, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lang's parents emigrated to the United States settling in Muscatine county about 1836, and the Lieberknecht family came from the Keystone state to Louisa county about the same time. Subsequent to their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lang located on a farm in Muscatine county where, at the venerable age of seventy-four years, he continues to reside, but she passed away in 1908, her demise occurring in the month of May. Of their union there were born eight children: Benjamin, who is living on the old homestead; Henry E.; George, who is residing in Louisa county; William, who is cashier of the Wilton Savings Bank at Wilton Junction; Louis, who is residing on the old homestead; Albert, who passed away at the age of twenty-

one years; Nellie, who married Dr. Miller, of Wilton Junction; and Bertha, the wife of Rolly Herr, living in the vicinity of Wilton Junction.

The early years of Henry E. Lang were very similar in every way to those of other lads of the period who were born and reared in the country. His preliminary education was acquired in the common schools, following which he pursued a business course in a commercial college. He remained at home until after he had attained his majority, and at the age of thirty he began for himself. Leasing some land in Grand View township, Louisa county, he cultivated it for fifteen years. This brought him a very good return and at the expiration of that period he had sufficient capital to become a property owner, so he purchased his present place. A large portion of the profit netted by his abundant harvests has been turned back into the property in the way of improvements. An ambitious man, he takes great pride in keeping up the appearance of his fields and buildings, which suggest the thrift and prosperity that always accompany capable supervision.

Mr. Lang established a home by his marriage, on the 5th of February, 1896, to Miss Margaret A. Gast, whose birth occurred in Grand View township, Louisa county, on the 22d of August, 1873. Mrs. Lang is a daughter of Herman and Sarah (Stineman) Gast, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Ohio. They were married in Grand View township and immediately began their domestic life on a farm which they purchased in that township. In 1878 Mr. Gast withdrew from agricultural pursuits and removed to Grand View where for some years he operated a mill, but gave this up in order to engage in carpentry work and contracting, with which he continues to be identified at the age of sixty-six years. Mrs. Gast passed away on the 15th of April, 1906. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gast four children were born, in the following order: Farrie, who is residing in Louisa county; Margaret A., now Mrs. Lang; Rush, who is living in Grand View; and Ora, who is keeping house for her father at Grand View. Mrs. Lang was given good educational advantages and is a college graduate.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political support is given to the republican candidates. Although he never prominently participates in political affairs he has served for eight years on the school board and for four as a trustee. Persistence and determination of effort in his case have brought their usual reward and he is now rated as one of the prosperous citizens of Grand View township.

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#### SOLOMON D. FOSTER.

Solomon D. Foster is an enterprising and progressive farmer of Oakland township, whose birth occurred in Concord township, Louisa county, on the 5th of July, 1865. His parents, Harrison and Sarah (Reynolds) Foster, were both natives of Ohio in which state they were also married but shortly thereafter

came to Iowa, being among the pioneer settlers of Louisa county. Here the father engaged in farming until his demise which occurred in 1868, the mother, however, surviving until 1900. Eight children were born unto them as follows: Mary, who is living in the state of Washington; Marion, a resident of Xenia, Wayne county, Illinois; Lydia, who passed away in 1907, the widow of James Henderson; Fannie, who married Samuel Bushong, of Fredonia, Iowa; Jane, the wife of Thomas Cross, of Louisa county; Henry H., who is living in Creston, Iowa; A. Jackson, also a resident of this county; and Solomon D.

Solomon D. Foster, who was a child of only three years when his father died, was educated in the district schools of his native county. He assisted with the work of the home farm from his early boyhood until he had attained his majority, at which time he rented the property from his mother. For four years thereafter he continued its operation, following which he went to Emmet county where he bought a farm which he cultivated for nine years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Johnson county and two years thereafter he sold his farm in Emmet county. In October, 1901, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Louisa county—the property known as the Squire Davis farm. Four years later he bought an adjoining tract, known as the George Davis property, since which time he has also purchased a timber lot. The aggregate of his present holdings is now one hundred and sixty-six acres of land, located on section 24, Oakland township, all of which is under a high state of cultivation.

In September, 1890, occurred the marriage of Mr. Foster and Miss Hattie V. Files, who was born in Johnson county, in July, 1869, a daughter of James M. and Mary (Bowman) Files. The parents are both natives of Ohio but they were married in Johnson county, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1899, when he retired to Iowa City, where he has ever since continued to reside. Eight children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Files, Mrs. Foster being the eldest, while the others are: Charley, who is a resident of Mason City, Iowa; Estella, who is a dressmaker, living at home; Myrtle, who is a nurse, also at home; Ray, an attorney of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Wayne, a barber living in Iowa City; Leo, who is a high school graduate, also a resident of Iowa City; and Blanche, who passed away at the age of four months.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Foster has been blessed with eight children: Myrtle, who was born on the 10th of August, 1891, a graduate of the Conesville high school, and a teacher for a year; Jesse M., born on the 7th of June, 1893, also a graduate of the high school; Audrey E., who was born on the 15th of February, 1895, and is still attending high school; Sylvia C., born October 27, 1897, attending school; Cecil H., whose birth occurred on the 9th of November, 1898; Fern L., who was born on the 30th of July, 1900; Herald W., whose birth occurred on the 14th of June, 1906; and Carl E., who was born August 28, 1908.

The family affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Foster is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America, being identified with the lodge at Conesville. He votes with the prohibition party, thus voicing his views

on the temperance question. During the period of his residence in Emmet county he served as a trustee for five years and at present he is a member of the school board. He has never taken a very active part in political affairs, always having preferred to concentrate his energies upon the development of his personal interests in the administration of which he is meeting with success.

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### ROBERT F. NEWELL.

Robert F. Newell, who passed away in Louisa county on the 14th of May, 1898, was long and successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits here, owning four hundred acres of valuable land at the time of his demise. His birth occurred in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 20th of February, 1818, his parents being Thomas and Harriet D. (Flaherty) Newell, who were born, reared and married in the Buckeye state. The father there followed farming until 1839, when he came west to Louisa county, Iowa, here entering and improving a tract of land and making his home in a log cabin for a number of years. He was called to his final rest when seventy-six years of age, while his wife passed away when fifty-seven years old. Unto them were born six children, four sons and two daughters, as follows: James, who died in Iowa at the age of seventy years; Mary, who passed away in this county and who was the wife of William Paulins; Samuel, whose demise occurred in Black Hawk county, Iowa; Margaret, who died in Louisa county and who was the wife of Alexander Finley; Thomas, who passed away in Iowa; and Robert F., of this review.

On the 31st of December, 1843, on the banks of the Des Moines river, at Eddyville, Iowa, Mr. Newell was united in marriage to Miss Christina Newell, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth (McNay) Newell. They were born in Kentucky and celebrated their marriage in Ohio on the 9th of September, 1809, having gone to the Buckeye state in 1808. They came to this county in 1839 and settled in Concord township, Mr. Newell devoting his attention to general agricultural pursuits until he passed away in 1858. His wife was called to her final rest in 1868. Unto them were born ten children, namely: Malinda, now deceased, who gave her hand in marriage to Walter Clement; Jane, also deceased, who was the wife of Benjamin Ginn; Robert, who has passed away; Mrs. Newell; Lucinda, deceased, who was the wife of Benjamin Fuston; James, who has also been called to the home beyond; Mary, who gave her hand in marriage to Levi Hayes and who has likewise passed away; John, who is deceased; Amanda, who is the widow of Jacob Kiser and resides in Ohio; and Hugh, who makes his home in Logan county, Ohio. Unto Robert F. and Christina Newell were born nine children, as follows: Elizabeth, who is the widow of Dr. Henry Cushman and resides in Tacoma, Washington; Thomas, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Caroline, the wife of Louis A. Riley, of Wapello; Hugh, who died in infancy; Mary, the wife of E. S. Curtis, of Concord township, this county; John and William, both



of whom are residents of Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska; Robert M., living at Fredonia, Iowa; and Harriet, who is the wife of B. F. Sidman, of Norton, Kansas.

Following his marriage Robert F. Newell devoted his attention to the operation of a rented farm for eleven years, on the expiration of which period he purchased a homestead in Concord township, this county. The further cultivation and improvement of that property claimed his time and energies throughout the remainder of his life, his demise occurring on the 14th of May, 1898. He prospered in his undertakings and accumulated four hundred acres of valuable land, becoming widely recognized as one of the substantial and representative agriculturists of the community. His widow, who has attained the age of ninety-three years, resides at Fredonia, Iowa, with her son, Robert M. Newell. Our subject gave his political allegiance to the democracy and held various township positions, ever discharging his official duties in a most prompt and capable manner. Fraternally he was identified with the Masons, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Universalist church. His memory is yet cherished by those who knew him, and most of all by her with whom he traveled life's journey so happily for many years.

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#### DAVID FOX.

An extensive landowner and agriculturist of Louisa county is David Fox, who is now living retired in Columbus Junction, enjoying in the latter years of his life the ease and comfort attained through the industry and application of his early manhood. His birth occurred in southern Canada, on the 22d of December, 1846, his parents being Charles and Hannah (Lefler) Fox, who removed to Illinois with their family in 1857, locating in Rock Island county, where he passed away in 1866. The mother, however, survived until 1879. Of their union there were born eleven children, in the following order: Mary; John, who was a member of the Ninety-third Illinois Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Champion's Hill; Simon E., who is deceased; Sophie and William, who died in infancy; Samuel B., a resident of Illinois; Frank, a veteran of the Civil war, now living in Texas; Charles, who lives in Iowa; George and Fannie, both deceased; and David.

The last named, who was eleven years of age when his parents came to the United States, began his education in the schools of Canada. This was later supplemented by a course in the public schools of Illinois. After the completion of his education he remained at home assisting his father in operating the farm until the latter passed away. He then began working for himself by farming as a renter for sixteen years. In 1882 he came to Louisa county, where he bought one hundred and forty acres of land, which he cultivated for five years. At the expiration of that period he rented two hundred and forty acres for two years and then purchased four hundred and fifty-two and a half acres in Union township. After operating this for ten years he disposed of it and purchased two

hundred and ninety acres elsewhere in the same township. He also sold out again after ten years and retired to Columbus Junction, where he owns a fine residence and four building lots. While residing in the country, although engaging in general farming, he devoted much attention to the raising of stock.

Mr. Fox's plans for a home had their culmination in his marriage on the 1st of January, 1867, to Miss Martha Hahn, a daughter of John and Serena (Meadows) Hahn. Her father was a native of Germany and the mother of Missouri, but both are now deceased. Unto them were born thirteen children: Jerry, who is a resident of Davenport; Thomas, who is deceased; Anna, the wife of Colman Brayton, of Illinois City; Martha, now Mrs. Fox; Peter, who is deceased; John and William, residents of Illinois City; Robert, a resident of Polk county, Iowa; Hiram, who lives in Columbus Junction; Rebecca; Adam; and two others who died in infancy. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Fox was blessed with seven children: Belle and Serena, both of whom are deceased; James, who is living in Canada; Leonard, of Columbus Junction; Della, the wife of Frank Duncan, of Columbus Junction; Elmer, who is living in Canada; and Virgie, who is at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he votes with the republican party. While residing in the country he always took an active interest in township affairs and held some of the minor offices. Mr. Fox is one of the highly regarded citizens of Columbus Junction who well merits the success which has rewarded his well directed efforts, as he started out in life at the age of twenty practically empty-handed.

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#### LEVI METZGER.

One of the excellent farms of Elm Grove township is the four hundred and forty acre homestead of Levi Metzger, who was born on the place where he now resides, on the 3d of October, 1878. His parents, Nathan and Sarah A. (Felenser) Metzger, migrated from Munson, Pennsylvania, where they were born and reared, to Iowa, settling in Louisa county in March, 1868. The father was one of the successful agriculturists of the township and at the time of his retirement in 1903 owned the farm now in possession of his son Levi. When he withdrew from active farming Mr. Metzger removed to Winfield, Iowa, and there he passed away on the 27th of January, 1910. The mother, however, is still surviving. Nine children were born unto them, those beside the subject of our sketch being: Lona, the wife of Edward B. Gipple; Matilda, who is deceased; Ella, the wife of Frank Chamberlain, of Louisa county; Jacob, Simon, David and Edward, all residents of this county; and one who passed away in infancy.

In the acquirement of his education Levi Metzger attended the common schools until he had obtained such knowledge as he deemed essential to enable him to pursue his life work which he had decided should be that of agriculture. As is usual with the majority of farm boys he early began to assist in the work of the fields and when he left school was well able to assume much of the

responsibility connected with the cultivation of the homestead. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age following which he farmed as a renter for two years. At the expiration of that time he purchased the old homestead located on section 34, Elm Grove township. He has wrought quite extensive improvements in the place during his ownership and now has one of the valuable properties of the county. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock which he finds quite profitable.

On the 11th of April, 1901, Mr. Metzger was united in marriage to Miss Alice M. Pierson, who is a native of Delta, Iowa, and a daughter of Simon and Margaret A. (Root) Pierson, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a blacksmith. He and his wife became early settlers of Louisa county and afterwards removed to Delta, Iowa, where Mrs. Pierson passed away in 1880. He lived until six months later when he also departed this life. He was a republican in politics. He held membership in the Methodist church and served as superintendent of the Sunday school, while his wife held membership in the Evangelical church. Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Pierson, two of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Metzger have two sons and two daughters, as follows: Russell Lee; Nathan Ronald; Verda Matilda; and Pauline Margaret, who was born on the 17th of March, 1909, and died on the 16th of the following December. His political allegiance Mr. Metzger gives to the republican party and both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church.

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#### DANIEL A. WEHMEYER.

Daniel A. Wehmeyer, who owns a fine farm property of two hundred, twenty-two and one-half acres in Oakland township, Louisa county, was born in this county on the 28th of February, 1869. He is a son of August and Wilhelmina (Bottomeller) Wehmeyer, both of whom were born in Germany. They were married in Missouri and shortly thereafter they came to Louisa county, settling on a farm which the father cultivated until his retirement two years prior to his death in October, 1908. The mother, who is still living, now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Hank. In the family were the following children: Mary, who is deceased; Henry, a resident of Wapello township; Frederick, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Henry Webber, of Wapello; John, who is living in the same town; Amelia, who married Ulrich Windmeyer, of Nebraska; Emma, the wife of Henry Otto, of Wapello; Daniel A., our subject; Lena, who is now Mrs. Peter Bretz, of Columbus Junction; Katie, who married William Brauns, of Wapello; Matilda, who died when she was two and a half years of age; Christina, now Mrs. Schmeirser, of Wapello; and Clara, who married Albert Hank, of Columbus Junction.

The common schools provided Daniel A. Wehmeyer with a good understanding of the common branches and later he turned his attention to the work of the fields. Born and reared on a farm, he early became familiar with the practical methods





MR. AND MRS. JAMES BRADLEY



MR. AND MRS. AUGUST WEHMEYER



DANIEL A. WEHMEYER AND FAMILY



of farming and at the age of twenty five began farming for himself by renting land which he operated for four years. At the expiration of that period he bought a farm in Wapello township, which he cultivated for a year. Disposing of that he bought two hundred and forty acres in Union township, where he continued to reside until 1911, when he again sold and purchased his present homestead of two hundred and twenty-two acres in Oakland township. This property is improved with substantially constructed buildings and one hundred acres of the land is under a high state of cultivation. In addition to his excellent homestead Mr. Wehmeyer owns a quarter section of unimproved and uncultivated land in South Dakota.

Mr. Wehmeyer was married on the 27th of December, 1893, to Miss Ruth M. Bradley, who was born near Monmouth in Henderson county, Illinois, on the 1st of August, 1874, a daughter of James and Lucinda (Speck) Bradley. The father was a native of Ohio, while the mother was born in North Carolina. They were married in Illinois, where they resided until 1887, in which year they settled in Louisa county, where the father farmed until a few years prior to his demise, which occurred in 1889. Mrs. Bradley is still living at the age of seventy-five and makes her home with her children. There were seven children in the family: Dora, who is still at home; Rena, who is unmarried and living in Arizona; Ida, a resident of Columbus City, Iowa; Ruth M. and Orpha, twins, the former now Mrs. Wehmeyer and the latter the wife of George Kerr, of Columbus City; Laura, who is living in Letts; and Frank, who is at home.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wehmeyer have been born eight children: Walter August, born on the 4th of August, 1894; Daniel Carl, born on the 17th of July, 1895; Marie Orpha, born on the 20th of October, 1897; Emma Elizabeth, born on the 17th of March, 1900; Florence Amelia, born on the 2d of February, 1902; Pearl Alta, born on the 28th of November, 1903; Merritt Orlan, born on the 4th of November, 1907; and August, whose birth occurred on the 17th of January, 1910.

His political allegiance Mr. Wehmeyer gives to the candidates of the democracy and for one term he has served as road supervisor in his township. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America, being affiliated with the lodges at Wapello. Both Mr. Wehmeyer and his wife are well known and favorably regarded in the community where they reside and they have many friends.

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#### CHARLES B. SHELLABARGER.

Charles B. Shellabarger, who has won a gratifying measure of prosperity in his undertakings as an agriculturist, is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Concord township. His birth occurred in Grand View township, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 24th of April, 1855, his parents being Thomas B. and Matilda M. (Browning) Shellabarger. The father was born in



Clark county, Ohio, April 25, 1815, and the mother in Gloucester county, New Jersey, November 25, 1827. Their marriage was celebrated in Iowa. The paternal grandparents of our subject resided in Ohio until 1837, when they came to Louisa county, settling in Concord township. The grandfather here erected a log cabin and resided therein for a few years, coming into possession of several tracts of land in the locality. In the early '40s he returned to Ohio to settle up his business interests in that state and passed away there. Thomas B. Shellabarger, the father of Mr. Shellabarger of this review, finally located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grand View township, operating the place for a number of years. Subsequently he spent three years in the town of Grand View and then traded his farm for a tract of land three miles west of Grand View, cultivating the same until called to his final rest May 7, 1898. His wife passed away May 31, 1908. Their union was blessed with seven children, as follows: Matilda, J., who died when eighteen years of age; Jacob L., who is a resident of Louisa county; Charles B., of this review; Thomas B., who passed away at the age of forty-five years; William B., living in this county; Kossuth, a landowner and agriculturist of Plainview, Texas, who wedded Mary Walker, a daughter of George Walker of this county; and Harvey M., a barber residing in Washington, Iowa, who married Miss Louisa Cross of this county.

Charles B. Shellabarger attended the common schools in pursuit of an education and on attaining his majority started out as an agriculturist on his own account, devoting his attention to the cultivation of rented land for two years. At the end of that period he came into possession of forty acres by purchase and inheritance and since that time has added to that amount one hundred and twenty acres, which has since remained in his possession. The property is highly improved in every particular and is a part of section 26, Concord township. Mr. Shellabarger is engaged in general agricultural pursuits and each year gathers rich crops as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields.

On the 13th of September, 1877, Mr. Shellabarger was united in marriage to Miss Izula A. Whistler of Concord township, her parents being Elder Isaac and Elizabeth (Garrettson) Whistler. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, June 14, 1816, and her mother in Ohio, May 22, 1818. They were married March 21, 1847, in Ohio and afterward came to Louisa county, Iowa. Mr. Whistler here being engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. He passed away March 17, 1889, at the age of seventy-three years, while his wife was called to her final rest on the 21st of October, 1869. Unto them were born four children, as follows: John, who died on the 7th of August, 1877, when twenty-nine years of age; Mary C., whose demise occurred July 3, 1895; Eveline, the wife of F. P. McNamar, of Waukon Junction, Iowa; and Mrs. Shellabarger. The last named became the mother of six children. Harry A., whose birth occurred on the 13th of July, 1878, passed away on the 3d of May, 1901. Egbert, whose natal day was August 21, 1879, wedded Miss Lena Blankenhorn, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Charles and Rosa Blankenhorn of this county. Their union was blessed with three children, namely: Charles, who was born on the 3d of

August, 1903; Viola, whose birth occurred February 7, 1905; and Violet, whose natal day was May 4, 1907. Charles B. Shellabarger, who was born on the 7th of July, 1884, died on the 23d of July, 1886. Lela F., whose natal day was August 26, 1886, is the wife of William E. Whicher, a native of Aurora, South Dakota. They now have two children: Harry Leo, who was born on the 24th of July, 1905; and Paulina E., whose birth occurred on the 1st of March, 1909. Edna M. Shellabarger, who was born on the 17th of July, 1889, is a graduate of the Columbus Junction high school and a student at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. She has taught school for two years. Rosa Estella, whose birth occurred on the 11th of March, 1896, is enjoying the advantages of a high school education.

In politics Mr. Shellabarger is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. He is a faithful member of The Church of God (undominational), to which his wife and children also belong. His career has been one of continuous activity, in which he has been accorded due recognition of labor and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of his native county.

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### PETER MÜLLER.

One of those who have been successfully identified with the mercantile interests of Grand View for some years past is Peter Müller, whose birth occurred in the Rhine Province, Germany, on the 3d of November, 1856. His parents, Peter and Caroline Müller, were also born in the fatherland and there Mr. Müller, passed away on the 4th of July, 1897, at the age of sixty-eight years, but his wife still survives and continues to reside in the land of her nativity. Four children were born of this union of whom the son Peter is the second in order of birth, the others being: Carl, who is a resident of Bowling Green, Ohio; Julius, who lives in Germany; and Philip, who passed away in the old country in 1888, at the age of twenty-five years.

Peter Müller was only a youth of seventeen years of age when he took passage for America, where he expected to make his fortune. He landed in the United States on the 17th of September, 1873, first locating in Danville, Kentucky, where for ten months thereafter he followed the baker's trade. At the expiration of that period he migrated to Springfield, Ohio, where he continued to follow his trade for a few months, going from there to Columbus. From the latter city he went to Cincinnati and after a short sojourn there took up his residence for a time in New Orleans. Returning to the north again he located in Chicago where he remained until he came to Iowa. He first settled in Postville, this state, where for twelve years he operated a bakery. Disposing of his business at the expiration of that period he returned to Germany for a visit.

When he came back to this country he located in Nashua, Chickasaw county, Iowa, where he opened a bakery which he ran for five years. Selling his business, for two years thereafter he lived retired, following which he went to Montana

where he visited relatives for a short time. Subsequently he engaged in business in Victor, Iowa, but he sold his establishment at the end of sixteen months and came to Grand View. Having decided to become identified with some other line of activity he bought the mercantile business of R. C. Vibber, which for three years thereafter he conducted alone. At the end of that time he sold a half interest to T. E. Johnston and they have ever since been associated in the management of the business. They have a large and well selected stock of goods and enjoy an excellent patronage.

While residing in Postville Mr. Müller was married to Miss Albertina Kammene, their union being solemnized on the 12th of October, 1879. Mrs. Müller is also a native of Germany, her natal day having been the 28th of October, 1859, and her parents Henry and Louise Kammene. Her parents emigrated to the United States in 1873 and located on a farm in Allamakee county. There the father passed away in July, 1909, but the mother survived until the 27th of March, 1911, her demise occurring on the old homestead. Of the three children born of their union Mrs. Müller is the eldest; the others are: Amelia, the wife of Fred Duebel, of Allamakee county; and Tillie, who married Paul Topel, also a resident of Allamakee county. Having no children of their own Mr. and Mrs. Müller have adopted two, Lemma and May A.

In religion Mr. and Mrs. Müller are of the German Lutheran faith and in politics he is a republican. Although he has never been an office seeker at the present time he is serving as a member of the city council. He is one of those enterprising, thrifty and industrious sons of the fatherland who came to America practically empty-handed, but with an inexhaustible supply of perseverance and determination of purpose by means of which he hewed his way to success.

## SAMUEL H. DUNCAN.

Samuel H. Duncan, who for nearly fifty years has been identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county, was born in Tennessee on the 28th of October, 1838, his parents being J. K. and Margaret (Johnson) Duncan. In the early '40s they removed westward, being among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, where they passed the latter days of their lives. Unto them were born six children as follows: Catherine E.; Samuel H.; Sarah J.; R. F., who is a resident of Columbus Junction; Isabel; and J. J., who is also living in Columbus Junction.

Being but a lad of five years when his parents settled in Iowa Samuel H. Duncan acquired his education in the public schools of the Hawkeye state, which he attended until he had obtained sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to assume the heavier responsibilities of life. His early years were not unlike those of the majority of lads of the pioneer days, when life west of the Mississippi was very primitive in the rural communities. At the age of twenty-five years he began his independent career as an agriculturist, and has ever since been identified with farming. He now owns one hundred and sixty-five acres of

land which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. Here he engages in general farming and also makes a specialty of raising Jersey Red hogs, and horses. At one time he was a very extensive feeder of cattle but has now withdrawn from this entirely. Mr. Duncan has the misfortune to be absolutely deaf, this affliction having proven to be a great handicap in the transaction of business, yet he has made of life a success far greater than many a man who is not thus handicapped and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished.

On the 5th of November, 1863, Mr. Duncan was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Edwards, and unto them have been born nine children: J. K.; Charles; R. L.; Oscar E.; Guy and Garry, twins; Grace Adella; one who died in infancy; and Clyde, who died at the age of seventeen years.

In matters religious the family manifest their faith through their affiliation with the Reformed church, of which the parents are members, and in politics Mr. Duncan is a democrat but has never held any office save that of school director. He is widely and favorably known in the community where he has so long resided and among whose citizens both he and his wife number many friends.

#### T. EDGAR JOHNSTON.

A well known and highly respected business man of Grand View is T. Edgar Johnston, who for the past nine years has been associated with Peter Müller in the mercantile business here. He was born in the vicinity of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of July, 1864, being a son of Thomas and Kezia (Kendall) Johnston. The parents were born, reared and married in the Keystone state and there the father passed away in 1889. The mother, who is now seventy-seven years of age, still resides on the old homestead. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnston were born nine children, of whom six still survive: J. K., who is living in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania; Ellawea, who is a resident of the same place; Oscar S., who is living in Topeka, Kansas; T. Edgar, the subject of this sketch; Mary M., who became the wife of C. R. McCutcheon, of Zanesville, Ohio; Nora K., who lives in Pittsburg, Kansas, and is now Mrs. Owen Dunlap. Those deceased are: Laila, who passed away in Pennsylvania; John F., whose demise occurred in the vicinity of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania; and Morris, who was a resident of the same state at the time of his death.

Reared on a farm T. Edgar Johnston was early trained in the work of the fields. In the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools, following which he gave his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits. At the age of twenty-six he decided to start for himself and migrated to Colorado, where he farmed for two years. Coming to Iowa at the expiration of that time he located in Louisa county and for eight years engaged in general farming and stock-raising. At the expiration of that time he withdrew from agricultural pursuits and went to Washington, Iowa, where he conducted a grocery store for two years.

Disposing of his interests at the end of that period he came to Grand View and bought a half interest in the mercantile business of Peter Müller, with whom he has ever since been associated. They are enterprising and progressive business men and now own one of the leading stores in the town. Their stock is large and well selected, tastefully displayed and most graciously exhibited to patrons, and they enjoy a large and constantly increasing trade as the result of their method of conducting their business.

In Louisa county, March 5, 1891, Mr. Johnston was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Walker, who was a native of this county, her natal day having been the 3d of September, 1864. Mrs. Johnston was a daughter of J. P. and Mrs. Walker, unto whose union there were born two sons and two daughters, of whom she was the youngest. In order of birth the others are as follows: William, who is living in Grand View; Daniel, a resident of Charles City, Iowa; and Anna, the wife of J. K. Chambers, of Portland, Oregon. Mrs. Johnston passed away August 16, 1909, her death resulting from the effects of a surgical operation for gall-stones, and she was laid to rest in the cemetery of Grand View.

Mr. Johnston is a member of the Congregational church, with which his wife also affiliated, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He does not prominently participate in civic activities, however, not being an aspirant to public honors or the emoluments of office. His energies are all directed toward the development of his business interests, in the administration of which he is meeting with most gratifying success.

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### JOHN G. THOMAS.

John G. Thomas, a leading agriculturist of Columbus City township, devotes his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising with excellent results. He was born on the 27th of January, 1878, and the farm upon which he now resides has always been his home. His parents were Dennis and Elizabeth (Griffith) Thomas, the former a native of Wales and the latter of Louisa county, Iowa. The demise of Dennis Thomas here occurred in 1890 but his widow is still living on the old homestead where she was born and reared and where our subject still makes his home. In the family were four children, as follows: Mary E., the wife of J. H. Jones; John G., of this review; and David L. and Daniel, both of whom are deceased.

At the time of his father's death John G. Thomas took charge of the old homestead farm of two hundred and sixty acres and has since devoted his attention to its further cultivation and improvement. He also owns and operates a tract of two hundred and thirty acres three miles distant and in the conduct of his agricultural interests has won a gratifying measure of prosperity. In connection with the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock.

On the 16th of April, 1908, Mr. Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Anna Davis, of Louisa county. Her father, John J. Davis, is mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. Unto our subject and his wife have been born two children, one of whom died in infancy. The other is Elizabeth L., whose natal day was February 9, 1910.

In politics Mr. Thomas is a republican, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 693 at Cotter, in which he has filled all of the chairs. He is likewise connected with the Knights of Pythias at Columbus Junction. In social relations he is held in the highest regard and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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### JAMES DVORAK.

James Dvorak, who owns and cultivates an excellent farm of three hundred and fifty-two acres in Union township, was born in Bohemia on the 8th of September, 1854. His parents Vexclav and Barbara (Adam) Dvorak were born and married in Bohemia and there they resided until 1872. Emigrating to the United States in the latter year they remained for six months in Baltimore, migrating from there to Chicago. After a two years' residence in the latter city they again started westward, Iowa being their destination. They settled on a farm in Washington county and there the mother died in 1884. The father then came to Louisa county to make his home with his son, with whom he was living at the time of his demise on the 14th of March, 1903. Of the nine children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Dvorak six passed away in Bohemia, while they lost two more after locating in the United States, and thus the son James is the only surviving member of the family.

The first eighteen years of the life of James Dvorak were spent in his native land in whose common schools he obtained his education. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-six years of age at which time he was married and began for himself. Thrifty and industrious he had carefully saved as much of his wages as he could, which sum he had invested in fifteen acres of land. He now cultivated this in connection with some other land which he had rented, but at the end of a year he disposed of his interests in Washington county and removed to Louisa, where he rented for three years longer. At the expiration of that period he invested in two hundred and eighty-six acres of land, but shortly thereafter he sold one hundred and twenty-six acres of this. He now owns three hundred and fifty-two acres of finely improved land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. In addition to the tilling of his fields, he raises and feeds stock, which venture has proven to be very remunerative. When he first settled on his homestead the improvements were very crude; the house which was built of logs contained but one room; and all of the other buildings were equally poor. He has erected a comfortable residence, new barns and outbuildings, thus having added greatly not only to the appearance but the value of the property.

It was on the 9th of January, 1882, that Mr. Dvorak was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hosek, whose birth occurred in Bohemia in March, 1863. She came to America when a child of four years with her parents who located in Washington county, where her father engaged in farming until his death in July, 1892. The mother is still surviving and continues to make her home on the farm, which contains two hundred and forty acres of excellent land. Four children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Hosek: Joseph, who passed away in 1905; Mary, now Mrs. Dvorak; Annie, who married Joseph Lear of Washington county, now living on the old homestead; and Frances, the wife of Frank Skubal, of Washington county.

Unto this union of Mr. and Mrs. Dvorak there have been born eleven children: Joseph William, who was born May 7, 1882, and for his wife took Neva Waltz, a native of this county, where they continue to reside; Mary Frances, who was born February 2, 1884, the wife of Elmer Pearson, of Clay Center, Kansas; Anna B., born January 7, 1886, who married Theodore Rath, of Washington county; James, who was born December 14, 1887, and is still at home; Rose, born October 4, 1889, the wife of George Longquist, of Louisa county, Iowa; Frank, born June 9, 1892; Amelia E., who was born March 1, 1894; Clara Matilda, who was born March 7, 1896; Helen Agnes, born August 18, 1898; Alby, born February 10, 1901; and Nora, whose birth occurred September 11, 1903. All of the members of the family are at home with the exception of the four who are married.

The family are all communicants of the Roman Catholic church and fraternally Mr. Dvorak is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in Columbus Junction Lodge, No. 365. In politics he is a democrat but has never been an office seeker. Mr. Dvorak, who owns one of the valuable properties of the township and is recognized as one of the prosperous agriculturists, has won his success through close application and tireless energy.

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#### CLAUS DALLMEYER.

Claus Dallmeyer, whose demise occurred in Concord township on the 2d of March, 1892, was long and successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits in Louisa county, accumulating three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. His birth occurred in Germany on the 8th of August, 1820, and the first thirty years of his life were spent in the fatherland. In 1850 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling in Jackson county, Iowa, where he remained for six years. On the expiration of that period he came to Louisa county and purchased a tract of land comprising twenty acres, improved the property and continued its operation until called to his final rest. As his financial resources increased, owing to his untiring industry and capable management, he extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase until at the time of his death it embraced three hundred and sixty acres. His widow still owns and





MR. AND MRS. CLATS DALMEYER





operates a quarter section thereof but the remainder of the land was divided among the children.

On the 13th of July, 1867, Mr. Dallmeyer was united in marriage to Miss Dora Wilkins, who was born in Germany on the 10th of March, 1845, her parents being Mathias and Catherine Wilkins, likewise natives of that country. She came to America with her sister in 1854, while her parents followed four years later. Mathias Wilkins died while en route from New York to Chicago, his widow continuing the journey to Iowa and joining her daughter here. They had six children, as follows: Mrs. Dallmeyer; Gertrude Westerman, who is a resident of Wapello, Iowa; Emily, who passed away at the age of twenty-four years; and three who died in Germany. Unto our subject and his wife were born six children, namely: Minnie, whose natal day was August 24, 1866, and who is the wife of John Richley, of Muscatine; Matilda, born November 17, 1873, who is the wife of Louis Lee, of Letts, Iowa; Charles, who passed away at the age of seventeen years; Louis M., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume; Ida, whose birth occurred on the 21st of June, 1884, and who is the wife of Harry Littrel, of Louisa county; and Dora, born January 29, 1887, who is the wife of Arthur Cromley, of Louisa county.

Mr. Dallmeyer gave his political allegiance to the democracy but neither sought nor desired office as a reward for his party fealty. In religious faith he was a Congregationalist. Coming to the United States in early manhood, he wisely utilized the opportunities afforded in a land unhampered by caste or class and worked his way steadily upward to a position among the substantial and representative citizens of his community.

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#### HUGH R. NEWELL.

Hugh R. Newell, one of the enterprising and progressive young agriculturists of Concord township, is also numbered among the worthy native sons of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred on the 12th of June, 1883. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Dowson) Newell, are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. His preliminary education was supplemented by a two years' course of study in the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Ames. Since putting aside his text-books he has devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent results. He is now busily engaged in the operation of a farm of two hundred and eight acres in Concord township, the well tilled fields annually yielding golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them.

In December, 1907, Mr. Newell was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Shellabarger, a daughter of Thomas B. and Sarah M. (Westlake) Shellabarger, who were natives of Louisa county and were married at Wapello, Iowa. Mr. Shellabarger operated a farm in Kansas for five years after his marriage and then disposed of the property and returned to Louisa county, Iowa, being here en

gaged in the cultivation of the homestead farm until called to his final rest in March, 1897. His widow still survives and resides on the homestead. Their union was blessed with seven children, as follows: Roy, who was born in Kansas and died when but one year old; Sevilla, also born in Kansas, who passed away at the age of six months; Mrs. Newell; Perry, who follows farming in Louisa county; and Thomas E., W. Ralph and Russell B., all of whom are at home with their mother. Unto our subject and his wife were born three children but the first two, twins, died unnamed. Thomas Herbert was born on the 26th of September, 1909.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Newell has supported the men and measures of the democracy, believing firmly in its principles. Both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of The Church of God. He is a public-spirited citizen, interested in the welfare of his county and home locality. His life is exemplary in all respects and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of highest commendation.

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#### ALVIN W. JENNINGS.

General farming and stock-raising engages the attention of Alvin W. Jennings, who owns an excellent tract of land of four hundred and forty acres in Elm Grove township. One of Louisa county's sons, his natal day was the 13th of March, 1858, and his parents Benjamin and Nancy Ann (Jeffers) Jennings. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jennings were natives of Pennsylvania but they came to Iowa during the pioneer days and here the mother passed away in August, 1863, but the father survived until the 3d of September, 1894. Of their marriage there were born ten children: Elijah, who died while serving in the army during the Civil war; Mifflin, who is a resident of Jewell county, Kansas; William Henry, a resident of Davenport, Nebraska; Taylor, who lives in Dexter, Iowa; Enoch, of Van Meter, Iowa; Jeffers, who is deceased; Franklin, also deceased; Ellen, the wife of A. H. Trindell, of Loveland, Colorado; Alvin W.; and Emma Jane, who is deceased. Following the death of his first wife Mr. Jennings was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Harris, and unto them was born one daughter, Ginevra, now the wife of C. N. Johnson, of Columbus City.

Alvin W. Jennings was educated in the common schools of Louisa county, and while pursuing his studies he also assisted in the cultivation of the farm, thus fitting himself for his chosen life work. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority at the end of which time he began working out as a farm hand. He followed this occupation for six years and then rented eighty acres of land which he cultivated for about nine years. During this period he had, by means of hard work and rigid economy, acquired the necessary capital to enable him to buy eighty acres which he cultivated in connection with a quarter section that he rented. He kept adding to his original

tract from time to time as he was able until he now owns four hundred and forty acres on section 24, Elm Grove township. Here he engages in both general farming and stock-raising, both of which are proving successful. All of his land is tillable with the exception of fifteen acres which is in timber. The improvements on the place have been put there during the residence of Mr. Jennings, who has a very comfortable farm house and ample barns and sheds for the accommodation of both stock and grains. His land is highly cultivated, fences and buildings are kept in repair and the grounds are well cared for, thus making his one of the very attractive homesteads in the community.

The 25th of January, 1883, was the wedding day of Mr. Jennings and Miss Isabel Hester, a daughter of Stephen and Emily (Peckenpaugh) Hester. The latter was twice married, her first husband having been Elijah Hester, who was killed when serving as a soldier of the Civil war. She afterward married his cousin, Stephen Hester. The children of her first marriage were: Albert, of Shumach, Washington; and a daughter who died in infancy. The children of the second marriage are: Mrs. Jennings; Dora, the wife of Baldwin Dunn, of Dallas county, Iowa; Ada, who became the wife of Henry Riley, who was killed in a mine explosion in Utah, after which she married Dr. William Hayden, of Cooper, Iowa; Emma, the wife of John Moody, of Earlham, Iowa; Robert, living in Jefferson, this state; Millie the wife of Otis Wright, of Odell, Iowa; Carrie, the wife of Dr. Aldridge, of Lawrence, South Dakota; Ina, the wife of William Robinson, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Lela, who became the wife of Todd Summers, of Denver, Colorado; Harvey, also of Denver; Lona, at home; and Alma, deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jennings seven children have been born in the following order: Lois, the wife of Carl Buffington, of Elm Grove township; Verdi, who married R. M. Buffington, a resident of the same place; Bruce A., of Louisa county; Boyd B., who is also a resident of this county; one who died in infancy; Donald Dean, living in Louisa county; and Jefferson M., who is at home.

The family attend the Evangelical church and Mr. Jennings votes with the republicans. He always takes an active and helpful interest in public affairs as did his father, the latter having been one of the twelve first supervisors appointed in the county. For the past twenty-one years A. W. Jennings has been secretary of the school board and he has also filled all of the township offices. He is one of the prosperous agriculturists and highly regarded citizens of Elm Grove township among whose inhabitants he numbers many friends.

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#### SYLVERIUS S. PRESTON.

Sylverius S. Preston, who engages in general farming in Oakland township, was born in Licking county, Ohio, October 24, 1872. He is a son of Benedict and Rachel (Fringer) Preston, both natives of Ohio, in which state they were also married and resided for thirty years thereafter. At the expiration of that

period they removed to Kansas where they remained for two years and then came to Iowa, settling on a farm in Concord township where they resided until the father passed away in 1901. The mother is still surviving and at the present time is making her home in Davenport, Iowa. Seven children were born of their union: Judson, who is a resident of Louisa county, Iowa; Lanetta, who is living in Oklahoma; Ruth Anna, who is still at home with her mother; Sylvester S., our subject; Zelora, a resident of Illinois City, Illinois; Gertrude, who is at home; and one who died in infancy.

The education of Sylvester S. Preston was acquired in the common schools, following which he devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. He remained at home until he was twenty-eight years of age, and then operated the farm belonging to his wife, located on section 24, Oakland township. This is one of the valuable properties of the neighborhood and has been brought to a high state of cultivation. Good improvements have been made, the appearance of the place bespeaking capable management and careful regard for all details.

Mr. Preston was married on the 31st of December, 1901, to Miss Pearl Ryan, who was born in Conesville, Iowa, in 1883. Mrs. Preston is a daughter of the late J. and Emma (Wiltrout) Ryan. The mother died when Mrs. Preston was four years of age while her father passed away in 1897. Following the death of her mother she lived with her grandparents until their deaths, after which she worked out by the week until her marriage. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Preston two children have been born: Reba Viola, who was born February 28, 1903; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Preston votes with the democratic party but he has never been an office-seeker, always having preferred to devote his energies to the development of his farm in the cultivation of which he is meeting with very satisfactory results.

## ROWLAND REES.

Rowland Rees deserves mention in this volume among the well-to-do and prosperous citizens of Louisa county, his possessions embracing five hundred and thirty acres of land located in Columbus City township. The family has long been represented in this part of Iowa and have become prominent in agricultural circles. Mr. Rees, of this review, was born here February 18, 1863, a son of John A. and Elizabeth (Morgan) Rees, both of whom were natives of Wales, whence they emigrated to the United States and located in Louisa county in 1843. Here the father entered land from the government and, building a log cabin thereon, lived in true pioneer style for many years. He later made more modern improvements on his farm, and was engaged in farming throughout his business career. He died in September, 1898, having for about thirty years survived the death of the wife and mother, who departed this life in 1868. To their union were born nine children but only four of the number are now living, these being: John M., a resident of this county; Catharine N., the wife of Richard Jenkins,

of Cotter; Mary E., the wife of Hugh J. Davis, also of Louisa county; and Rowland of this review.

Rowland Rees was reared on the home farm and was early trained in the duties of the farm, assuming larger responsibilities as his age and strength increased. He remained with his father until the death of the latter, when he purchased the land of the other heirs and now owns five hundred and thirty acres, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and this branch of business has added not a little to his annual income.

Mr. Rees was married October 1, 1885, to Miss Margaret Humphrey. She was born in Wales, a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Humphrey, who emigrated to the new world in 1881. Their family numbered twelve children. The father died in Louisa county in 1909 but the mother is still living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rees have been born thirteen children: Elizabeth, Sarah E., Mary M., Margaret W., John H., Edward R., Harold I., Robert O., William McKinley, Henry L., Evan M., Catherine E. and Howell A.

Mr. Rees gives staunch support to the men and measures of the republican party at the polls. He has never sought political honors for himself and aside from serving as school director has filled no public positions. He has won success in his chosen field of labor—the success which ever comes as the result of persistent, untiring effort and a wise use of the opportunities which are presented.

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### JOHN ROBERT SCHAFER.

One of the highly successful stockmen of Grand View township is John Robert Schafer, who pursues this vocation in connection with the cultivation of his homestead of two hundred acres. He was born in Nebraska on the 11th of October, 1874, his parents being John and Annie (Hucke) Schafer, both natives of Germany.

The parents were married in Muscatine county, where for a time Mr. Schafer worked, but in 1868 they migrated to the west, filing on a homestead in Nebraska. Mr. Schafer engaged in the cultivation of this for ten years, following which he sold it and returned to Muscatine county where he bought a farm. In 1882 he also disposed of this place and came to Louisa county, purchasing two hundred and fifty-three acres of land in Grand View township. He continued to operate this until 1894, when he withdrew from agricultural pursuits and removed to Grand View, where for twelve years he lived retired. At the expiration of that time he and his wife took up their residence in Wapello, where she passed away on the 28th of December, 1910, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Grand View. Since the demise of his wife Mr. Schafer has been making his home with one of his sons in Muscatine county. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer were the parents of seven children, the order of their birth being as follows: Emeline and Clara, twins, both deceased, the former having died in infancy and the latter

at the age of twenty four years; Emma E., who passed away when she was forty-two years of age; Martha Elizabeth, who married William Beik, of Grand View; John Henry, who is a resident of Letts; John Robert, our subject; and George F., who is living in Wapello.

Born and reared on a farm the youthful activities of John Robert Schafer were directed along agricultural lines while his education was being pursued in the common schools. When he laid aside his text-books he had a good, serviceable knowledge of practical farming and from then until he was twenty years of age assisted in the cultivation of the homestead. When his father retired he rented a farm which he operated for twelve years. Capable management, tireless energy and close application made it possible for him at the expiration of that period to buy the property, upon which he has ever since continuously resided. He is both ambitious and enterprising and pursues modern methods in the conduct of his business. His fields, which are well drained and fenced, are given the careful supervision which brings abundant harvests, while his improvements are kept in good condition, the result being that his place has a general air of thrift and prosperity. During the period of his ownership he has erected some fine buildings and now has a comfortable residence, while he has ample barn and shed room for the accommodation of his stock and grain. He raises only such cereals as are used in the feeding of his stock, all of his product being consumed in this manner, as he is an extensive operator in this line. His property is located on section 28 of Grand View township and is one of the valuable places of the vicinity.

Mr. Schafer was married at the age of twenty to Miss O. Nevada Collins, a native of Port Louisa township, their union being solemnized on the 22d of November, 1894. Mrs. Schafer is a daughter of K. B. and Eliza J. (Springer) Collins, the mother a native of Ohio and the father of West Virginia. Their marriage occurred in Port Louisa township, however. Unto them were born eleven children, four of whom survive as follows: Charles W., of Kits Caty, Alberta, Canada; Minta C., of Muscatine, Iowa; O. Nevada, now Mrs. Schafer; and Della May, who is living in Louisa county. Those deceased are as follows: Maggie, Effie, Josie, Everette, George H., and a pair of twins who died in infancy. Mrs. Collins was previously married, her first husband having been James Humphrey, now deceased. Of their union there were born two children, a son and daughter, James and Lydia, who are also deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Schafer seven children have been born, namely: Orpha G., who was born on the 23d of September, 1895, and who has a common school education and is now studying music; Franklin C., born on the 18th of February, 1897; Irma C., born on the 4th of February, 1898; Verle Van, born on the 7th of May, 1900; Iva May, born on the 9th of October, 1901; Norval Paul, born on the 6th of September, 1903; and Martha Helen, whose birth occurred on the 22d of October, 1905.

The religious faith of the family is manifested through their connection with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members. Mr. Schafer casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party, but has never been



an office seeker. He has met with success in his ventures and in addition to his finely stocked homestead is interested in the Grand View Mutual Telephone Company, of which he is president. He has steadily forged ahead ever since he began his independent career and is now regarded as one of the substantial citizens of his township.

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### HENRY WAGNER.

Henry Wagner, an agriculturist residing on section 4, Concord township, has won a gratifying measure of prosperity as a farmer and stockman, now owning nine hundred and forty acres of valuable land. The farm on which he now lives is the one on which his birth occurred December 26, 1872. His parents, Jesse and Fannie (Kipple) Wagner, were both natives of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and were married in Iowa. The father was successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits until called to his final rest in 1904. His widow, who still survives at the age of seventy-six years, makes her home at Fredonia, Iowa. Their children were six in number, namely: Martha, the wife of Leonard George, of Louisa county, Iowa; Henry, of this review; Maggie, the deceased wife of John Lupton, of Davenport, Iowa; Josie, who is the wife of Samuel Johnson and resides in this county; Cynthia, the wife of Robert Lee, of Fredonia, Iowa; and Levina, who is the wife of Walter James and likewise makes her home at Fredonia.

Henry Wagner obtained his education in the common schools and remained under the parental roof until he had almost attained his majority, when he was married and established a home of his own. Following that important event in his life he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, operating a portion of his father's land until 1896. In that year he purchased a tract of one hundred acres and has been busily engaged in its cultivation to the present time. His holdings now embrace nine hundred and forty acres of land, six hundred acres thereof being under a high state of cultivation. He attributes his success to his operations as a stockman, having fed and shipped stock on an extensive scale.

On the 23d of November, 1892, Mr. Wagner was united in marriage to Miss Maud Pence, who was born in Illinois on the 17th of July, 1875, her parents being John and Nelia (Pettigrew) Pence, likewise natives of the Prairie state. A short time after their marriage they removed to Kansas but at the end of three years returned to Illinois. Soon afterward, however, they came to Iowa and took up their permanent abode at Columbus Junction. John Pence passed away in January, 1909, but his widow still resides at Columbus Junction and is sixty years of age. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Araminta, who died at the age of seven months; Mrs. Wagner; May, the wife of Benjamin Cranor, of Louisa county; and William, a practicing physician of Columbus Junction, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have four children, namely: Etta, who was born on the 14th of October, 1893, and is the wife of Frank Orr of Louisa



county, Madeline, whose birth occurred on the 3d of April, 1896; Pence, whose natal day was January 22, 1898; and Fannie, who was born on the 26th of December, 1907.

Mr. Wagner is a republican in politics and has served as school treasurer for four years. Both he and his wife belong to the Church of God and take an active and helpful interest in its work. Upright character and sterling worth have gained them a favorable place in the regard of many friends, and Concord township numbers them among her leading and respected residents.

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### LEE WERNER.

Among the younger generation of men who are making their mark in agricultural and stock-raising circles in this state is Lee Werner, who was born in Grand View township, Louisa county, on the 6th of November, 1883. His parents, Christopher and Mary (Lieberknecht) Werner, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania respectively, were married in Louisa county and began their domestic life upon a farm here, Mr. Werner being engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement from active life in 1905, at which time they removed to Muscatine. He was then the owner of seven hundred and sixty acres of very finely improved land, constituting one of the valuable farms of Louisa county, and was extensively engaged in stock raising and feeding in connection with general farming. He still survives and at the age of fifty-eight years makes his home in a beautiful residence which he owns in Muscatine. His wife passed away in November, on Thanksgiving Day, 1909. In their family were seven children, as follows: David, who passed away at the age of eighteen years; Henry, who died in infancy; Lee, of this review; Albert, residing in Grand View, where he follows the barber's trade; Pearl and Bertha, twins, the former residing at Muscatine and the latter the wife of Charles Dickerson, of Muscatine; and Ruth, residing at home.

Fortunate in being reared amid the wholesome scenes and environment of farm life, Lee Werner entered the district schools at the usual age, and, after completing the course therein taught had the benefit of a commercial course at the Peck's Business College of Muscatine. His practical training also was thorough, for he was early assigned tasks about the home place which became more numerous and important as his age and strength increased. He was twenty-three years of age when he began farming independently, taking charge of the old homestead upon the retirement of his father in 1905 and this has since remained the scene of his activities. Continuing in the lines in which his father engaged, he gives close attention to the cultivation of his fields and is a heavy raiser and feeder of stock. As a farmer he has met with a gratifying degree of prosperity and, being an excellent judge of stock, is meeting with success in that direction also. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods and has ever manifested a business sagacity in the management of his affairs which has been a potent force in the attainment of substantial and satisfactory results.





MR. AND MRS. CHRISTOPHER H. M. WERNER



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL GRAHAM



MR. AND MRS. LEE WERNER AND BABY



It was on the 4th of September, 1907, that Mr. Werner was united in marriage to Miss Nannie Graham, who was born near Wapello, October 19, 1888. Her parents, Daniel and Frances (Hart) Graham, were born in Ohio and New York respectively but were married in Louisa county, Iowa, where the father followed farming until his retirement in 1901. Since that time they have resided at Wapello, where they own an attractive home. In their family were eleven children, as follows: Clarence W., of Grand View; Musa May, the wife of George Schneider, residing near Wapello; Harry, still at home; Myrtle, who married Alpha McGill, of Columbus City, Iowa; Charles W., of Muscatine, Iowa; Floyd, also at home; Mrs. Werner; Harold and Lucile E., with their parents; Lillie, who died at the age of six years; and Daisy, whose death occurred at the age of one and a half years. Mrs. Werner acquired her education in the common and high schools and is a lady of many excellent traits of heart and mind. By her marriage she became the mother of one son, Lloyd Daniel, born July 26, 1909, the light and life of the household.

Fraternally Mr. Werner is connected with the Accident Association of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and he and his family affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a sturdy supporter of the republican party, and with the exception of a term of four years in which he acted as a member of the school board, he has never held office, preferring to concentrate his attention on his business interests. Having spent his entire life within the borders of Grand View township, he is widely known throughout the community, and the fact that many of his best friends are those who have known him from his boyhood is an indication that he possesses those qualities which win high regard and warm friendships.

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### SIMON P. METZGER.

Simon P. Metzger, who owns a fine homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, Elm Grove township, was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 9th of March, 1874. He is a son of Nathan and Sarah A. (Felencer) Metzger unto whom were born nine children, the other eight being as follows: Lona, the wife of Edward B. Gipple; Matilda, who is deceased; Ella, the wife of Frank Chamberlain, of Louisa county; Jacob, David, Levi and Edward, all residents of this county; and one who died in infancy.

Simon P. Metzger was reared on the home farm where he was born and in the common schools obtained his education. Early trained in the work of the fields, after laying aside his text-books he decided to engage in agricultural pursuits. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, then bought his present homestead. Since residing upon the place he has erected some fine buildings, all of which are substantially constructed and kept in good repair. In connection with the cultivation of his fields he raises stock, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of thoroughbred Percheron and Clyde horses. He

keeps two fine stallions, one named a Percheron, and Dale, a Clyde, both of which are registered.

On the 18th of December, 1895, Mr. Metzger was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Crossley, who was born in Des Moines county and is a daughter of John and Caroline Crossley. The mother has passed away but the father still survives and now makes his home in Louisa county. Not having any children of their own Mr. and Mrs. Metzger have taken three belonging to her brother, whom they are rearing: Nellie, Clarence and Lulu.

Mr. and Mrs. Metzger attend the Christian church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. At the present time he is serving as a school director, the responsibilities of which office he has capably discharged for the past six years.

### CELESTUS UTTER.

It is fitting that men in the evening of life should enjoy a season of rest. Nature seems to have intended that this should be so, for in youth he is full of energy and hope and in later years these qualities are directed by mature judgment and keen discrimination, resulting in the attainment of success which, when the evening shadows fall, permits him to enjoy a period of rest from labor. Such has been the record of Celestus Utter who for the past fourteen years has lived retired in Letts.

An easterner by birth, Mr. Utter is a native of Madison county, New York, his birth there occurring December 22, 1837. His parents, Palmer and Julia (Mann) Utter, were also born in the Empire state and were there reared and married. That state remained their home until 1856, when they came to Iowa, locating on a farm which Mr. Utter purchased in Louisa county, and in the operation of which he continued until his death. He passed away in 1901, having survived his first wife for twenty-two years. Three years after her demise he was again married, his second union being with Miss Caroline Thorp, a native of Madison county, New York. By his first union were born eight children, three of whom passed away in infancy. Celestus, of this review, is the eldest in order of birth, and the other members of the family are as follows: Adelbert, died in prison while serving in the Civil war. Williston was also a soldier of the Civil war and was wounded at the battle of Branden, Mississippi, resulting in the loss of a leg. His death occurred in 1908, his body being laid to rest in Cedar Bethel cemetery. Harriet had been married but a short time previous to her death in 1876, her remains also being interred in Louisa county. Kendrick is a resident farmer of Fairfield, Iowa. Mrs. Caroline (Thorp) Utter passed away in 1908.

The period of his boyhood and youth were passed by Celestus Utter in his New York home, and in the common schools of that state he acquired his education. He was a young man of eighteen years when, in 1856, he came to Louisa

county, Iowa, and entered the business world, being employed for five years as a farm hand. He then began farming independently on rented land, which he operated for a few years, and subsequently purchased seventy-eight acres, which formed the nucleus of his fine estate. He engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement from active life, at which time he was the owner of two hundred and forty-five acres which he had accumulated as he had prospered in his undertaking from year to year. This land, located in Concord township, Louisa county, was all under a high state of cultivation and indicated, in its neat and well kept appearance, a life of industry, enterprise and thrift on the part of its owner. Success in a most gratifying degree awarded his efforts until, in 1897, he had accumulated a fortune which permitted of his withdrawal from farm work and in that year he took up his abode in Letts, where he is now living retired in the enjoyment of well earned and well merited rest. He now makes his home in a comfortable and attractive dwelling of which he is the owner.

Mr. Utter has been twice married. In 1862, in Louisa county, he wedded Mrs. Rebecca Cole, who was born in Michigan, a daughter of Robert Painter, also a native of that state, and by this union were born five children, of whom the eldest died in infancy. The others are as follows: Alice, who married O. C. Farmer, a retired farmer of Letts, now serving on the board of supervisors; Harriet, the wife of M. A. Shellabarger, of Letts; Robert, a farmer of Concord township; and Herry A., also engaged in agricultural pursuits in that township. The mother of these children passed away in 1900, her remains being interred in Indian Creek cemetery. In 1900 Mr. Utter married Mrs. Catherine (Wagner) Ritter, the widow of Louis B. Ritter. By her first marriage she had three sons: John William, Haroe and Walter, all residents of Letts. Mrs. Utter is a daughter of Deter and Lavina (Gipple) Wagner, who were born, reared and married in Pennsylvania. They came west and located on a farm in this county in 1877. Mr. Wagner died in 1883 and his wife two years previously. He was a republican in politics and a member of The Church of God.

Politically Mr. Utter is also a republican, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, but the honors and emoluments of public office have never held attraction for him. He has already passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten and although not actively connected with business still retains an interest in the world's work and the vital questions and issues of the day.

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#### HUMPHREY RICHARDS.

There is perhaps no resident of Louisa county more closely in touch with current events of this section or more active in social, religious or political circles than Humphrey Richards, who is engaged in the insurance business at Cotter and is also identified with farming and other interests. He was born in Wales, September 1, 1850, a son of Lewis and Catherine (Jenkins) Richards. The father engaged in farming all his life in that country. He died in 1863, one year



after the demise of his wife, leaving a family of ten children, seven of whom grew to maturity, namely: David, who is now living at Council Bluffs, Iowa; John, a mechanic, now deceased, who made his home at Higbee, Missouri; Humphrey, of this review; Mary Ann, who married William Trentham and died in London, England; Catherine, who is now living in London, England; Lewis, a resident of Wayne county, Nebraska; and Richard, living near Birmingham, Alabama.

Humphrey Richards was reared upon his father's farm and received his education in the public schools, continuing at home until twenty-one years of age. In the spring of 1871, having determined to seek his fortune in the new world, he emigrated to the United States and first stopped at Watertown, Wisconsin, where he remained until the following autumn. He then came to Iowa and engaged in mining for two years at Perlee. From that place he went to Des Moines, where he continued as a miner for another period of two years. He had carefully saved his money with the object of engaging in agriculture and stock-raising and early in 1875 he arrived in Louisa county, a section which he found to be very favorable for his proposed line of business. He accordingly purchased eighty-seven acres of land on section 20, Columbus City township, and there established his home. He prospered greatly as the years advanced and made additional purchases until he is now the owner of two hundred acres of land, upon which he has made many improvements, his farm being one of the most valuable of its size in this part of the county. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers National Bank of Cotter, of which he is a large stockholder, and for the past fifteen years was engaged in the insurance business at Columbus Junction but now has his office at Cotter.

In the spring of 1875 Mr. Richards was united in marriage to Miss Mary Williams, a daughter of Richard Williams, who was a native of Wales and came to Louisa county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. He died when Mrs. Richards was only six months old but her mother is still living having married John Richards, whose home is near Cotter, Iowa. Mrs. Richards was born in this county in 1857. In their family are five children, namely: Catherine Ann, who is the wife of William Roberts, a real-estate dealer of Washington, Iowa; Celia Jane, the wife of John O. Jones, who is engaged in farming near Royal, Clay county, Iowa; Amy, who is living at home; David John, deceased; and Edwin, also at home.

In politics Mr. Richards is a staunch supporter of the republican party. He has twice been a nominee for representative to the state legislature, but in each instance was defeated. He assisted in organizing the town of Cotter, contributing liberally toward its upbuilding, and he served as its first postmaster. Fraternally he is quite prominent, being a member of the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. He belongs to the blue lodge, chapter and council of the Masons and is a past grand master in the order of the Odd Fellows. He and his wife are connected with the Welsh Calvinistic church near Cotter. He is an officer of the church and was instrumental in the erection of the house of worship. He has been secretary of the District Church Association for the

last fifteen years and is recognized as one of the most efficient and valuable workers in the organization. For twenty-five years he has been a liberal contributor to the columns of the two Columbus Junction newspapers on subjects pertaining to this section and wherever known he is regarded as a well informed substantial citizen, in whom the utmost confidence may be placed.

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### J. A. WESTLAKE.

J. A. Westlake, who owns two hundred and sixty-seven and a half acres of land, in the cultivation of which he is now engaged, was born in Scott county, Iowa, on the 15th of May, 1861, and is a son of Burroughs and Margaret (Smeltzer) Westlake, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of West Virginia. Mrs Westlake was a daughter of John and Christina Smeltzer, and went from her native state to Ohio where she met and subsequently married Mr. Westlake. They began their domestic life in the Buckeye state where they resided until 1853, when they went to Scott county, Iowa, and settled on a farm, continuing to reside there for eight years. In 1861 they came to Louisa county, settling in Concord township where they spent their remaining days. The mother passed away in 1872, and the father on the 20th of July, 1899. Of their union there were born nine children. Malvina F., born October 6, 1845, was married January 17, 1864, to Wesley B. Compton, had twelve children and died March 15, 1900. Laurine D., born July 14, 1847, was married in Louisa county, April 24, 1866, to Henry Detter, and died July 29, 1900. M. F., born May 14, 1849, was married November 2, 1869, to J. N. Fuller, and died November 11, 1894. Elonzo B., born April 30, 1850, was married December 26, 1887, to Sarah Weber, who died December 5, 1899, while his death occurred December 11, 1910. Emily C., born January 29, 1853, is living on the old homestead. Christina A., who was born August 13, 1855, became the wife of Dave Kuder, of Ringgold county, Iowa, and the mother of ten children. Cora Belle, born September 20, 1857, was married to Henry B. Briggs, September 29, 1880, and died May 8, 1893. Sarah M., born August 14, 1863, was married May 11, 1881, to Thomas Shellabarger, who died April 3, 1897, leaving his widow and five children.

J. A. Westlake was reared on the old homestead in Louisa county, acquiring his education in the common schools. He early became familiar with the work of the fields for in common with the majority of farm lads he had to assist in the easier tasks as soon as he was strong enough. After laying aside his books he gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his father until he was twenty-two years of age. Feeling at that time that he was competent to take the management of a farm he rented his father's place until 1898, when he bought forty acres of land to which he later added another forty, continuing its operation until 1902. He then sold and purchased the tract he now owns which contains two hundred and sixty-seven and a half acres of finely improved land. Ninety acres of this is in timber but the remainder Mr. Westlake is highly

cultivating. It is located on section 30, Oakland township, and is one of the valuable properties of the district. In addition to the cultivation of his fields, which he devotes almost entirely to cereals, he is handling cattle and hogs.

Mr. Westlake's plans for a home were consummated by his marriage on the 17th of September, 1884, to Miss Fannie M. Stone, who was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 17th of August, 1860. Mrs. Westlake is a daughter of Charley and Martha (Cole) Stone, the father a native of Michigan and the mother of West Virginia, but they were married in Wapello, Iowa, June 17, 1857, where the father followed farming almost entirely until a few years prior to his demise. The mother passed away on the 17th of April, 1882, and the father on the 3d of February, 1908. Of their union there were born four children of whom Mrs. Westlake is the eldest, the others being as follows: Jane, who died in infancy; Ada, who was born in 1866 and was married on the 12th of May, 1884, to George Jones; and Harry, who passed away on the 7th of September, 1891, at the age of fifteen years. Mr. Stone was married again October 1, 1885, his second wife being Miss Mary Hunter, and unto them were born four children: Henry; Lavina, who died in infancy; Frank; and Jessie.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Westlake have been born the following children: Elsie May, who was born on the 4th of August, 1885; Charles B., who was born on the 5th of May, 1887; James Franklin, born on the 16th of October, 1889; Cora Belle, who was born on the 3d of December, 1892, and died on the 10th of September, 1898; Ada F., who was born on the 8th of May, 1895; Earl A. and Myrl A., twins, born on the 26th of July, 1897; Roy E., born on the 7th of April, 1904; and Amy P., whose birth occurred on the 20th of June, 1907.

Fraternally Mr. Westlake affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, being a member of Columbus Junction Camp, No. 3145. Politically he is a democrat but has never been an office seeker, yet in matters of citizenship he is public-spirited and progressive.

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#### HARRY L. EDWARDS.

The energies of Harry L. Edwards are concentrated upon the development of his homestead which contains one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 4, Union township. His birth occurred in the township where he now resides on the 11th of August, 1870, and he is a son of John H. and Ella P. (Carson) Edwards, the father a native of Tennessee and the mother of this county. Mr. Edwards passed away in 1888 but his wife still survives and now makes her home in Columbus Junction.

Reared on the home farm in Union township, the education of Harry L. Edwards was obtained in the district schools of the locality in which he resided. While pursuing the common branches of study he was also assisting in the work of the farm, thus fitting himself for his life work. He remained a member of the parental household until he was twenty-one years of age, and then bought one

hundred and sixty acres of land in Union township, upon which he has since resided. In connection with the cultivation of his fields Mr. Edwards raises and feeds stock. He has a fine farm which contains good improvements and is well kept up and plentifully stocked.

On the 18th of February, 1892, Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Ida L. Duncan, a native of this county and a daughter of F. M. and Elizabeth P. (San) Duncan, who continue to make their home in Louisa county, and whose biography appears on another page of this volume. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have been born four children: Hazel M., born March 6, 1895; Glen D., April 15, 1900; Fern D., August 1, 1902; and Evelyn I., July 30, 1906.

The family manifest their religious views through their membership in the Reformed church and Mr. Edwards also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, being identified with Columbus Junction Camp, No. 3145. He has always accorded his political allegiance to the men and measures of the republican party and at the present time he is filling the office of school director. He is one of the industrious and enterprising citizens of Union township, as well as one of the substantial agriculturists, and is regarded as reliable and trustworthy by all who know him.

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#### GEORGE M. HENDRICKSON.

George M. Hendrickson engages in general farming and stock-raising on an excellent homestead of two hundred and forty acres in Union township, Louisa county. He was born in this county August 23, 1869, and is a son of Austin and Mary E. (Tindall) Hendrickson. His parents are both natives of Indiana in which state they were also married, but soon thereafter they came to Iowa, locating in Union township. There Mr. Hendrickson at one time owned two hundred and forty acres of land, but at the present time he is farming on a very small scale, living practically retired. Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson there were born eleven children: Thomas W., who lives in Columbus Junction; C. W., who is residing on the old homestead in Union township; George M.; Ira W., who makes his home in Canby, Minnesota; Milton T., who is living in Fort Smith, Arkansas; Mary, the wife of Louis Owens, of Colorado; and Minnie A., who married Edgar Todd, of Union township; and four who died in infancy.

The public schools of Louisa county provided George M. Hendrickson with a good general knowledge of the common branches, during which time he was also becoming versed in the science of agriculture by assisting in the cultivation of the homestead. At the age of seventeen years he left the parental roof and began his career as an agriculturist. For six years thereafter he farmed rented land, during which time he managed to save sufficient money to enable him to buy forty acres. This he also cultivated for six years and then disposing of it he rented the homestead of his father-in-law for three years. At the expiration of

that period he bought the property, which contained one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 19, Union township, which he has ever since cultivated. Success having attended his efforts he has added to his holdings at divers times until he has acquired two hundred and forty acres of finely improved land, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. In addition to the tilling of his fields Mr. Hendrickson raises and feeds stock for the market, which has proven to be a very remunerative undertaking.

Mr. Hendrickson's plans for a home had their culmination in his marriage on the 23d of March, 1893, to Miss Elizabeth P. Kelch. She is a native of Stark county, Illinois, her natal day having been October 3, 1876, and her parents Michael and Emma (Hampson) Kelch. The parents were born in New York but married in Illinois in 1872, and there they were residing when Mr. Kelch passed away on the 3d of January, 1881. Their family numbered four children, as follows: Sarah, the wife of Otto Schebiel, of Washington, Iowa; Minnie, who married Charles Hamilton, of Montana; Elizabeth P., now Mrs. Hendrickson; and Clara, the wife of C. N. Edwards, of Lone Tree, Iowa. On the 13th of March, 1888, Mrs. Kelch was married to Edward Harmon, of Indiana, and unto them was born one daughter, Florence, who married Lester Orr, of Union township.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson has been blessed with three daughters and one son, as follows: Mabel G., who was born on the 20th of March, 1894; Emma R., who was born on the 15th of August, 1895; Jake W., who was born on the 13th of September, 1897; and Jessie L., whose birth occurred on the 25th of August, 1899. The two elder girls have attended high school.

The family always attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal church of which Mrs. Hendrickson is a member, while Mr. Hendrickson accords his political support to the republican party. He is one of the self-made men of Louisa county, for such success as he has attained in his vocation has been the direct result of his own industry and capably directed efforts.

#### ADAM EPPERLY.

A fine farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres engages the attention of Adam Epperly, an agriculturist of Grand View township. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, April 14, 1838, his parents being William and Nancy (Gower) Epperly, the mother a native of Maryland and the father of Virginia. They were married in Wayne county, Indiana, where they continued to reside until 1865, when they came to Iowa and settled in Louisa county. Here the father first entered one hundred and thirty-five acres, to which he later added another forty by purchase. He continued to extend his holdings until at the time of his death he owned two hundred and fifty acres of finely improved and highly cultivated land. In his family were two children, the daughter, Mary, being the deceased wife of Jackson Campbell, of California. The father died at the age of



ADAM EPPERLY  
NANCY (EPPERLY) CAMPBELL—NANCY (CAMPBELL) VASTEEN



NANCY (GOWER) EPPERLY—CATHERINE GOWER





seventy, but the mother had passed the eighty fourth anniversary of her birth before her demise. They were laid to rest in Wagoner cemetery.

Adam Epperly was educated in the common schools of Indiana, and while familiarizing himself with the common branches he was also acquiring the principles of practical farming by assisting his father in the work of the homestead. When he attained the age of twenty-one he began working for himself by cultivating his portion of the home farm, in the operation of which he has ever since been engaged. He now owns one hundred and thirty-five acres of well improved land, all under a high state of cultivation with the exception of forty acres which is in timber. His property is located on section 3, Grand View township, and is one of the excellent farms of that locality. In connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Epperly raises and feeds stock.

Mr. Epperly is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a republican but he has never been an office seeker. He has never married and devotes his entire time and attention to the cultivation of his farm, which has responded by yielding abundant harvests that always command good prices in the market.

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#### O. I. JAMISON.

O. I. Jamison, for many years editor and proprietor of the Columbus Gazette, was one of the most prominent and dearly beloved men of Louisa county. He died April 18, 1908, at the age of sixty-three years, three months and six days, and it may truly be said that few citizens of Iowa have attempted more sincerely to perform their duty to their fellowmen and few have been more profoundly respected. As an educator, before assuming the responsibility of editorship, he gave evidence of rare talents, and in all the relations of life he was controlled by the highest sense of personal responsibility and an unselfish desire to promote the general welfare. For more than fifty years he was a resident of Louisa county, and during a large part of that time he was prominently before the public, his principal work being as editor.

Born in Pickaway county, Ohio, January 12, 1845, Mr. Jamison was the son of William D. and Isabella (Seeds) Jamison. He came with his parents to Wapello township, Louisa county, Iowa, when he was nine years of age, the family locating on a farm, where his youth was passed. He attended the district schools and later pursued a course in the Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, displaying an ability as a student that gave bright promise as to his future.

In 1868 he secured a position as teacher in the schools of Wapello, where he continued for two years. He afterwards spent two years in the live stock business in Texas. In 1878 he again became principal of the Wapello public schools and served in that capacity for five years. However, he was attracted to the newspaper business, and in 1883 he purchased the Wapello Times, a weekly



democratic paper, which he conducted at Wapello until 1884, when he moved the office to Columbus Junction and changed the name of the paper to the Louisa County Times. In January, 1886, he sold the paper to George P. Neal, who changed the name to the Columbus Gazette. In September, 1887, however, Mr. Jamison again bought the paper, which he edited up to the time of his death, with the exception of several years prior to 1901 which he spent in Arkansas in search of health.

In spite of every effort and the advice of the best physicians his health showed evidences of a steady decline and for about three months before his demise he was confined to his room. He made a trip to the tuberculosis sanatorium at Iowa City, but received no encouragement and returned home bravely to face the inevitable. Patient and resigned he bore his burden of pain, gratefully receiving the kindly ministrations of loving friends. He had not long to wait, for soon the angel of death kissed down his weary eyelids and he found rest. For more than a year prior to his death Mr. Jamison had been engaged in writing a history of Louisa county and it was one of the regrets of his last days that he could not complete this work. He was not identified with any religious organization but was warmly inclined toward the Methodist church.

In politics he was intensely democratic. He was a fluent and pleasant writer and in the conduct of his paper was loath to admit even as news any item calculated to breed scandal or that dealt in unpleasant details. Toward his employes and those connected with him as correspondents he was cordial always and between them there existed a bond of mutual love and esteem. Taken all in all his place will be hard to fill in the community with which he was connected so long and so intimately. One who knew him well said:

"He was a kindly, genial man, quiet of speech, soft of voice, considerate of manner; yet he could be caustic with his pen and was free in his expression of opinion regarding persons and policies, political and otherwise. He was an independent thinker and writer, in politics as in the consideration of other problems of life. And all in all, he was a fair-minded and frank-spoken man, a friend of the people and an advocate of the principles that seemed to him to conserve their rights and privileges and their prosperity. For a man who was given to speaking his own mind openly and frankly he was remarkably free from malice and cherished no bitterness. He was sweetened in spirit and softened in manner with the slow, yet certain approach of the silent messenger. Though not professedly religious there was something in his manner, in his tenderness and trustfulness and gentleness and patience during his lingering sickness that was very beautiful. His passing brings a pang of pain, yet leaves a tender memory of a gentle, a generous, a gracious, and as we believe a good man. It is in my heart to say that he ripened for heaven rapidly the last months of his earthly stay. And that he died bravely with his face to the future, fair with promise and holy with hope, with his heart open unto God, fearless and unafraid, which marks the fitting end of a busy career."

Another who was well acquainted with Mr. Jamison has written: "He was possessed of a keen intelligence and a broad knowledge of human

nature. Strong in his political and moral convictions, yet fair in spirit, normal in thought and action, he was tolerant of the opinion as well as the weakness or frailty of others. His charity was deep and broad; he chided the erring gently. No calumny or slander of friend or stranger ever escaped his lips or pen. His domestic life was serene and ideal and his relations to the public candid, sincere and well balanced. True to his friends, steadfast and constant in his principles, he asked no more than to be one of and to live with and for his people. No one had ever need to ask how O. I. Jamison stood nor what side his paper would take on public or moral questions. He was always on the right side. It can be said of him, He did his duty by his community in fullest measure. He loved them all and they loved him, and if the people of his county that he served so efficiently and faithfully could speak in unison at his bier they would say: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' "

On the 12th of January, 1872, Mr. Jamison was married to Miss Mary J. Gillis and they became the parents of one child, William D., who was born November 9, 1873. He was educated in the common schools and the State University at Iowa City, and became editor and proprietor of the Shenandoah World. In 1906 he was elected state senator from the seventh senatorial district and served one term in congress from the eighth Iowa district, succeeding Colonel Hepburn. Politically he gives his support to the democratic party but recently retired from political life on account of ill health. He has served as president of the Commercial Club of Shenandoah and is prominent in educational interests.

Mrs. Mary J. Jamison was born in Pennsylvania, October 25, 1844, a daughter of Ridgway and Margaret (McBain) Gillis. Her father was a native of New York state and was born February 15, 1818. The paternal grandfather, James L. Gillis, was a soldier in the war of 1812, taking part in the battle of Lundy's Lane, where he was wounded and carried a bullet in his leg for a number of years. He was a judge and a member of congress from the twenty-fourth district of Pennsylvania during Buchanan's administration. At the time of the agitation about the disappearance of Morgan, Judge Gillis was living in western New York and was charged with being one of the men who had taken the life of Morgan for revealing the secrets of Masonry. He was arrested and brought to New York for trial, but the case fell through, as no evidence of any kind could be found against him. He came to Iowa in 1862 and spent the remainder of his life at Mount Pleasant. He was born in 1792 and died in 1880.

Mrs. Jamison's father, Ridgway Gillis, came to Iowa in 1847 and settled in Henry county where he engaged as a farmer and merchant. At the time of the California gold excitement he went to the Pacific coast but soon returned to his home in Iowa. The mother of Mrs. Jamison, Margaret (McBain) Gillis, was born in Peebles, Scotland, June 4, 1820, the daughter of an officer in the British army. She accompanied her father and mother to India when she was a small child and passed a number of years in that country. Her father fought at the battle of Waterloo under Wellington. She came to America to become educated and attended school in Pennsylvania, being married to Ridgway Gillis.

April 14, 1840. Eight children were born to this union, four of whom are now living.

Mrs. Jamison taught school previous to her marriage. She was her husband's counselor, assistant and companion in all his undertakings, keeping even pace with him in the progress of his work, yet ever remaining an unobtrusive, silent force in his accomplishments. After his death she turned to face the battle of life alone, broken in spirit, sorely wounded in heart, yet with a courage undaunted. She assumed the management of the paper which she conducted for one year, at the expiration of which time she sold the plant to B. H. Shearer. The loss of her husband deranged the established system of her life and she has as yet been unable to settle in any vocation which she may truly regard as her own. As she is of a vigorous and active mind and remarkably energetic, it is scarcely probable that she will content herself by continuing long in idleness or lack of purpose.

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#### FRANK ETTER.

One of the extensive landowners and highly successful agriculturists of Louisa county is Frank Etter who owns four hundred and sixty-five acres of land in Oakland township. He was born in Washington county, Iowa, on the 14th of August, 1868, and is a son of Jacob and Julia (Davis) Etter. The father was born in Pennsylvania March 24, 1835, the mother on the 10th of September, 1838, and they were married in Pennsylvania October 6, 1859. They removed to Iowa from Pennsylvania in 1862 and located in Washington county, where the father engaged in farming until 1875 when he sold his property and went to Keokuk county where he continues to reside. Mrs. Etter passed away May 22, 1870. Of their union there were born three children, as follows: George, who died in infancy; Emma, who died on the 11th of December, 1887, after the birth of her fourth child; and Frank. On the 10th of January, 1871, Mr. Etter was again married, his second wife being Miss Margaret Wine, a daughter of Solomon and Margaret Wine. Her birth occurred in Ohio March 11, 1844, and her death on the 2d of June, 1911. Six children were born of this marriage: Edward, who is a resident of Louisa county; Sadie, the wife of A. W. Miller, who is living in Keokuk, Iowa; Maggie, the wife of J. S. Brower, of California; Solomon, who is living in this county; Annie, who married Charles Unger, of Keokuk county; and Eva, who is still at home.

In the acquirement of his education Frank Etter attended the common schools of Washington and Keokuk counties. Having decided to engage in agricultural pursuits, after leaving school he devoted his attention to the work of the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he began farming in Keokuk county, where he owned a tract of one hundred acres, in the cultivation of which he engaged until 1907. Disposing of his property at that time he came to Louisa county and bought two hundred and five acres on section 1, Oakland township. Having met

with success he has added to his holdings from time to time until he now owns four hundred and sixty-five acres of land. All of this with the exception of seventy-five acres, which is in timber and pasture, is highly cultivated and the improvements are good. In connection with the tilling of his fields he raises and feeds stock, the returns from both sources proving to be quite lucrative.

In Muscatine county, on the 10th of April, 1890, occurred the marriage of Mr. Etter and Miss Inza B. Frazee, who was born there on the 7th of December, 1871. Mrs. Etter is a daughter of Henry A. and Matilda (Black) Frazee, both natives of Stark county, Ohio, the former born September 29, 1840, and the latter September 7, 1846. They were married in Stark county February 14, 1865, and there resided until they went to Muscatine county in 1869. After living in the latter place for five years they removed to Keokuk county, where they made their home until 1908, at which time they returned to Muscatine county, where they are now residing. Unto them have been born eight children: Nettie, the wife of John Lunt, of Muscatine county; Exa, who married Charles Seydel, of Seattle, Washington; Inza, now Mrs. Etter; Albertus V., who resides in California; Orrilla, the wife of Perry Coiner, of Muscatine county; Virgil, who is a resident of the same place; Ernest, the youngest child who died in infancy, as did also Elmer, the oldest member of the family.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Etter have been born six children: Charles, who was born February 10, 1891, died on the 21st of the same month; Samuel F., who was born on the 12th of February, 1893; Mary E., born on the 1st of October, 1899; John Henry, born on the 20th of August, 1904; Clarence L., born on the 9th of February, 1906; and Edna M., on the 19th of October, 1907.

The family manifest their religious faith by their affiliation with the Dunkard church, while Mr. Etter accords his political support to the republican party but is not an office seeker. He is one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists as well as capable business men of Oakland township, and his success is attributable to the intelligent and capable direction of his affairs.

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#### ISON METZGER.

Among the enterprising and highly successful agriculturists of Elm Grove township must be numbered the late Ison Metzger, who was born in Pennsylvania, on the 23d of February, 1837. While still in his early youth he came to Iowa, settling in Louisa county in 1853. Here he engaged in general farming and stock-raising and being an industrious, persevering and thrifty man he was soon able to acquire a tract of land. He kept extending his holdings from time to time as he was able until at his demise he owned seven hundred and forty acres, all located in Elm Grove township.

Mr. Metzger was twice married, his first wife being Miss Lydia Heller, and of their union there were born eleven children. The mother passed away in 1892, and in the 11th of September, 1895, Mr. Metzger was married to Mrs.

Amelia Strauss Darrell. Mrs. Metzger had been married twice before, her first husband being Perig Simmons, and of their union there were born two children: Calvin, who is deceased; and Lottie, the wife of Walter McRoberts, of Louisa county. Mr. Simmons passed away in 1890, and the following year his widow married Duke Darrell. By her second husband Mrs. Metzger had one son, Everett Dale Darrell, who was born on the 2d of February, 1893. He is now operating his mother's farm, which contains forty acres of land.

The religious affiliation of Mr. Metzger was with the Evangelical church and he gave his political support to the democratic party. He never was an office-seeker, however, always having been too deeply engrossed in the development of his farm to take part in public affairs. He passed away on the 29th of January, 1913.

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#### M. R. EDMONDSON.

Enterprise, industry, thrift and economy are the characteristic elements in the life of M. R. Edmondson, who is numbered among the substantial agriculturists of Concord township, where he owns four hundred and twenty-seven acres of land on section 28. His birth occurred in that township on the 5th of June, 1865, his parents being R. H. and Jane (Reeder) Edmondson, the former a native of Blount county, Tennessee, and the latter of Louisa county, Iowa. Their marriage was celebrated in this county. The father was born in East Tennessee, October 8, 1830, and was a son of David and Nancy (Scott) Edmondson, who were natives of Virginia and emigrated to Tennessee at an early period in the development of that state. They reared a family of five children, of whom R. H. Edmondson was the third in order of birth. In 1836 the family went to Indiana, where David Edmondson entered and improved a claim, which he sold on his removal to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1855. There his death occurred in 1862, while his wife passed away in 1866. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to England, for David Edmondson was a son of David and Jennette (Wilson) Edmondson, both natives of England. The maternal grandfather of M. R. Edmondson was Micajah Reeder, who organized the first Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges in Louisa county.

R. H. Edmondson, who followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, at one time owned two hundred and ninety-five acres of rich and productive land. Since 1904, however, he has lived retired, making his home with his children. His wife was called to her final rest on the 8th of August, 1897. Unto them were born nine children, five of whom yet survive, namely: W. L., who is a resident of Decatur county, Iowa; Nancy, the wife of C. McDaniel; and M. R., G. W. and Emma, the wife of T. J. Carey, all living in Louisa county.

When a young man of twenty M. R. Edmondson started out as an agriculturist on his own account and for several years devoted his attention to the ope-

ration of a tract of land which he rented from his father. Subsequently he purchased a farm of eighty acres which has since remained in his possession and in the further cultivation and improvement of which he has been busily engaged to the present time. As his financial resources increased he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until they now embrace four hundred and twenty-seven acres of valuable land, nearly all of which is under a high state of cultivation. In connection with the tilling of the soil he has devoted considerable attention to stock and both branches of his business have proven profitable.

On the 22d of March, 1884, in Linn county, Kansas, Mr. Edmondson was united in marriage to Miss Ida McCleary, who was born in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 19th of January, 1862, her parents being George W. and Nancy (Simpkins) McCleary, likewise natives of this county. The father was a son of Abraham and Sarah (Trimbul) McCleary, both natives of Ohio, in which state they were reared and married. They afterward made their way down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi to Port Louisa in 1836. Abraham McCleary had previously visited the county in 1835 and was so well pleased with the district that he returned the following year. He then located in Grand View township, upon a farm which remained the home of himself and wife until they were called to their final rest. Their family numbered six children, of whom only two survive—George McCleary and Mrs. H. B. Chamberlain, of Grand View, Iowa. The McClearys were Scotch Irish and emigrated to America at an early day. George W. McCleary followed farming here until 1883, when he removed with his family to Linn county, Kansas, there residing until 1890. For the past twenty-one years he and his wife have made their home in the Peoria Indian Reservation of Indian Territory. Unto them were born thirteen children, as follows: Mrs. Edmondson; S. J., who is a resident of Columbus Junction, Iowa; Mrs. Helen Classin, living in Linn county, Kansas; Mrs. Victoria Carpenter, who also makes her home in Linn county, Kansas; John, of Kansas City; Mrs. Bertha Martin, residing at Miami, Oklahoma; Mrs. Annie Holtz, of Lynch, Oklahoma; Mrs. Lulu Davis, who lives in New Mexico; Jeff D., who makes his home at Miami, Oklahoma; Mrs. Pearl Skye, of Peoria, Oklahoma; Grover, at home; and George and Ruth, both of whom died in infancy. Our subject and his wife have five children. Elmore, the eldest, who was born December 14, 1885, was graduated from the high school at Columbus Junction and also spent one year as a student in Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa. He engaged in teaching for one year in Louisa county, Iowa, and subsequently was graduated from the law department of the state university, being now a practicing attorney of Brighton, Iowa. Maud, whose birth occurred September 2, 1887, attended the high school of Columbus Junction and also received a musical education, acting for a time as organist in the Methodist Episcopal church at Fredonia, Iowa. She is now the wife of Alva Shaw, of Concord township. George, born September 24, 1890, William, born April 11, 1893, and Harold, born April 25, 1896, are at home. All of the children have enjoyed the advantages of a high school education, as did their mother, who also attended the Eastern



Iowa Normal School at Columbus Junction and taught school for two years in Iowa and one year in Kansas.

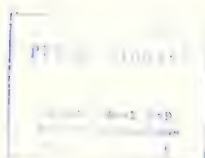
Mr. Edmondson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as township trustee for three terms. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Subordinate Lodge No. 365 at Columbus Junction and Columbus Encampment No. 112, in both of which he has filled all of the chairs. He is also a member of Silver Leaf Lodge of the Rebekahs at Columbus Junction, as is his wife. For two years he served as district deputy grand master and for a similar period represented Louisa county in the state organization. He likewise belongs to Washington Lodge, No. 101, A. O. U. W., at Columbus Junction. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife belongs. Mr. Edmondson is a man of strong character and sterling worth and well merits the high regard in which he is held throughout the county where his entire life has been spent.

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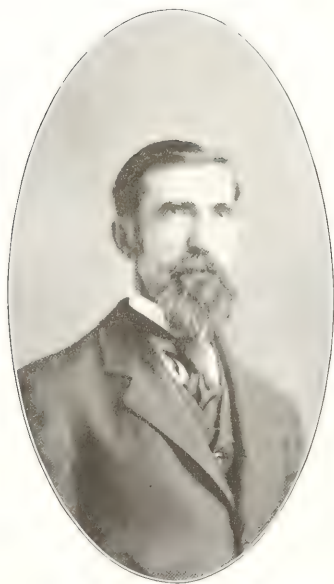
#### G. W. MOYERS.

A well tilled farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Wapello township pays tribute to the agricultural skill of G. W. Moyers, who was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 12th of April, 1849, and is the eldest son of Samuel N. and Lucinda H. (Deen) Moyers, pioneer settlers of that county. The birth of the father occurred five miles north of Carrollton, in Greene county, Illinois, and from that state he came to Iowa in 1839, locating in Des Moines county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement from active labor in 1884. He then removed to Mediapolis, Iowa, where his wife died November 9, 1909, at the age of eighty-six years, but he is still living at the age of eighty-four. In politics he is a democrat and has held several township offices. He is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is also connected with the Grange. Although well advanced in years he is a hale and hearty old gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet and know. In his family were two sons and two daughters as follows: Marietta, deceased; G. W., of this review; Sarah Ellen, the deceased wife of James Larkin, of Des Moines; and Jacob, who is living in Spokane, Washington.

The early life of G. W. Moyers was very similar to that of other lads of the period in like circumstances, his education being acquired in the district schools of his native county, such time as he was not there engaged being devoted to the work of the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he settled on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father, which he cultivated for nine years. At the expiration of that period he returned to the old homestead and managed it for two years, following which he removed to Edwards county, Kansas. There he purchased a half section of land, which he cultivated for three years and then returned to the old home farm in Des Moines county.







MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. MOYERS



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL N. MOYERS



where he lived for a year. In 1896 Mr. Moyers came to Louisa county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wapello township, where he has since resided. Here he engages in general farming and stock-raising, in both of which he has been very successful. He has made all the improvements on his farm, having erected during the period of his occupancy some very fine buildings. All of the land is tillable, well drained and substantially fenced, while the fields are under a high state of cultivation, thus making it one of the valuable properties of the township.

On the 11th of November, 1869, Mr. Moyers was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca E. Pence, a daughter of Jonathan and Polly (Tootwaler) Pence, both of whom were natives of eastern Virginia, whence they removed to West Virginia at an early day. Her father served in the Third Virginia Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war but after about two years at the front he died from exposure. The mother had passed away in 1848. Mrs. Moyers came to Des Moines county, Iowa, with her brother-in-law, Martin Deen, his wife and her sister, when she was nineteen years of age and there she was subsequently married. She was the youngest in a family of three daughters, the others being: Margaret E., the wife of D. Shumacher, of West Virginia; and Mary V., the wife of Martin Deen, of Cass county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Moyers were born ten children: Samuel L., who is deceased; Mary L., the wife of George Dotson, of Louisa county; Pearl Alfred, of Des Moines county; Hattie May, the wife of Samuel Walker, of Louisa county; Cora Ellen, who married Frank Hamilton, also of this county; James Burton, of Des Moines county; Gertie Edna, who is deceased; Edward Nelson, now living in Robstown, Texas; one who died in infancy; and Hally Roy, at home, who married Martha Catherine Baxter and has one child, Dwight, who was born on the 16th of August, 1909.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Moyers are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political support he gives to the democratic party. He has never been prominently identified with township affairs but he has held some of the minor offices. A capable agriculturist, the efforts and intelligence he has expended in the direction of his business have been well rewarded and Mr. Moyers is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of Wapello township.

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### CHARLES J. DYCHE.

General farming and stock-raising have characterized the efforts of Charles J. Dyche since entering the business world, and as a result of his well directed labor and enterprise in this direction he is meeting with gratifying success. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Washington county on the 11th of January, 1880, his parents being John and Alice (Boyd) Dyche. They are both natives of Ohio, who came to Iowa in early childhood, locating in Washington county where they were reared and married. Later they removed to Louisa county,

where they have since made their home on a farm in Oakland township. Of their family of six children only four sons are now living. The period of his boyhood and youth was spent by Charles J. Dyche on the home farm, and in the district schools of the neighborhood he acquired his education. He also received thorough practical training in the work of the fields, early becoming familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of the country lad. As his years and strength increased, however, his duties became more numerous and important until, upon attaining his majority, he was well equipped by thorough knowledge and broad experience to conduct an independent agricultural venture. Consequently, when twenty-two years of age, he left home and for six years was engaged in the operation of a rented farm, after which he was able to invest in two hundred acres of land in Louisa county, located on section 6, Columbus City township. He is a progressive business man, following the latest and most approved methods of tilling the soil, and he has greatly improved his place, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation. The farm is now one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township and since his occupancy he has reaped bountiful harvests which, from year to year, have enabled him to place himself in prosperous circumstances. He also engages in stock-raising to a considerable extent, making a specialty of raising and feeding cattle, hogs and horses, and in this branch of his business also he is meeting with good returns.

On the 20th of May, 1903, Mr. Dyche was united in marriage to Miss May McCormick, of Columbus City, a daughter of J. T. and Sabina McCormick, natives of Ohio, who came to Louisa county at an early date. Both are still living, now making their home at Columbus City. In their family were two children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dyche have been born two children, namely: Nella Ester, who was born November 29, 1903; and Irma Alice, born August 13, 1905.

Mr. Dyche is a member of the Catholic church of Columbus Junction, while in politics he gives his support to the democratic party, believing that the platform of that organization is best adapted to conserve the public good. He is yet numbered among the younger representatives of agricultural pursuits in Columbus City township and in the conduct of his affairs is actuated by an enthusiasm and ambition which are proving resultant forces in his business career.

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#### WILLIAM NELSON DUNCAN.

William Nelson Duncan, who is engaged in general farming and stock-raising on his eighty acre farm in Union township, was born in Louisa county, on the 26th of March, 1870. His parents are F. M. and Elizabeth (Sands) Duncan, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Iowa. They came to Louisa county in 1847, settling on a farm west of Columbus City, where they continued to reside for many years. Unto them were born eight children, as follows: J. Carter, a resident of Columbus Junction; Melvin, who is deceased; William Nelson; Ida M., the wife of Harry Edwards, of Louisa county; Harrison, who is re-

siding in this county; Frank, who makes his home in Columbus Junction; Earl, deceased; and Jessie, who is also a resident of Louisa county.

The early years in the life of William Nelson Duncan were not unlike those of other lads who are reared in the rural districts. He acquired his education in the common schools and while pursuing his studies was also becoming acquainted with the practical side of agriculture, for at such times as he was not in the school room he was expected to assist in the work of the fields. At the age of twenty-one he began his independent career as a farmer and bought two hundred acres of land which he cultivated for five years. He disposed of his holdings at the expiration of that time, following which he purchased a quarter of section 4, Union township, where he engaged in general farming and stock-raising. During the period of his residence here he has sold one-half of his original tract and is now cultivating but eighty acres.

In early manhood Mr. Duncan married Miss Jennie Orr, a daughter of W. W. and Jane (McCooney) Orr, the father a native of Tennessee and the mother of Iowa. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Orr there were born nine children: Rufus, who is a resident of Colorado; James L., who is living in Kansas; Jennie, the wife of Mr. Duncan; Ella, deceased; Margaret, who married W. W. Krone, of Kansas; Frank, who is living in Montana; and John L., Arthur and Earl, all of whom are residing in Kansas. Having no children of their own Mr. and Mrs. Duncan are rearing Milo Fulton, who is now thirteen years of age.

Mr. Duncan gives his political allegiance to the republican party, for whose candidates he always casts his ballot. He does not actively participate in township affairs but has served in the capacity of assessor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Duncan affiliate with the Reformed church among the membership of which they number many of their friends.

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#### MARSHALL E. JONES.

Marshall E. Jones is engaged in the cultivation of the farm where he was born on the 26th of August, 1873. His parents, Barton M. and Martha A. (Enyart) Jones, were natives of Bureau county, Illinois, whence they migrated to Louisa county, Iowa, about 1860. Here the father passed away in March, 1898, and the mother in July, 1904. Of the eight children born unto them, five are surviving: Mary E.; Lewis A., who is a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Daniel, who lives in Washington county, Iowa; J. H., who is residing in Louisa county; and Marshall E.

The education of Marshall E. Jones was obtained in the common schools in the vicinity of his home in Elm Grove township. After mastering the usual branches he laid aside his text-books and devoted his entire attention to the work of the fields. When he had attained his majority he rented the farm of his father and cultivated it as a tenant for four years. Following the death of his father he purchased the property which contains one hundred and thirty-nine acres of

land on section 23, Elm Grove township. Since residing here he has effected quite extensive improvements on the place, which have added much to both the appearance and value of the property. In connection with the tilling of his fields he makes a specialty of raising stock, and is meeting with very satisfactory returns from both sources.

On the 15th of September, 1910, Mr. Jones completed his plans for a home by his marriage to Miss Minnie I. Pfeifer, a native of this county and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pfeifer. The mother is deceased but the father is surviving and now resides in Moran, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Pfeifer were the parents of four children.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Evangelical church and fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being identified with the lodge at Cairo, Iowa. He also holds membership in Camp No. 4969, M. W. A., of Winfield, Iowa. His political allegiance Mr. Jones has given to the republican party ever since granted the right of franchise upon attaining his majority. He takes an active interest in local politics and has served in the office of school director and of supervisor. He is one of the prosperous farmers in Elm Grove township among whose citizens he has many friends, the majority of whom were comrades of his youth.

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#### R. F. JOHNSTON.

Among the younger generation of men who are making their mark in the agricultural circles of Louisa county is numbered R. F. Johnston. His entire life has been passed within the borders of Columbus City township, for his birth occurred on the farm upon which he now resides on the 29th of June, 1880. His parents, T. J. and Margaret (McConnell) Johnston, both natives of Pennsylvania, came to Louisa county, Iowa, in the '40s, and here cast in their lot with the early settlers of this district. The father passed away in the fall of 1893, but the mother still survives, making her home in this county. In their family were four children, namely: Clara J.; N. M., now deceased; Elizabeth; and R. F., of this review.

No event of special importance came to vary the routine of life for the last named during the period of his boyhood and youth, which was passed on his father's farm, and amid the scenes and environment of rural life he was reared to manhood. During the winter seasons he attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education, passing through the consecutive grades until his graduation from high school. The summer months were devoted to work about the farm, for he was early made familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the farm lad. Thus neither his mental nor physical training was neglected, and upon entering the business world he was fully equipped to cope with the duties and responsibilities thereof.

On attaining his majority he purchased the old homestead, consisting of two hundred and ten acres located on section 5, Columbus City township, and thereon he has since continued to reside. Under his wise management and progressive methods the place has been well improved, containing substantial and commodious buildings and inclosed within neat and well kept fences. The soil is rich and arable and yields its full quota per acre. In connection with the cultivation of the fields Mr. Johnston engages rather extensively in stock-raising and feeding, and is well known throughout the township in this connection.

In 1905 Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Daisy S. Wiederrecht, who was born in Louisa county, a daughter of George and Elizabeth Wiederrecht, residents of this county. Unto this union have been born two children: Rexford N., whose birth occurred March 17, 1907; and Robert L., who was born on the 15th of September, 1908. Mrs. Johnston is very well educated, having received the benefit of a course of study at the college at Cedar Falls, and for a number of years prior to her marriage was engaged in teaching school.

Mr. Johnston gives his political support to the republican party, and, public-spirited in his citizenship, his interests are thoroughly identified with those of the community in which he has passed his entire life. He has gained a large circle of warm friends, which is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance, for he possesses those qualities which win and retain friendship, while in business circles his honorable dealings have commanded the confidence and trust of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

#### EDWARD B. GIPPLE.

Edward B. Gipple, an enterprising agriculturist, owns three hundred and sixty-five acres of land in Elm Grove township, which he carefully and successfully cultivates. He was born in this county, on the 23d of June, 1859, being a son of George W. and Mary Ellen (Brooks) Gipple. The parents, who were natives of Pennsylvania, came to Iowa in 1845, settling in Louisa county where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement. They are now living in Letts and have recently celebrated the sixty-fourth anniversary of their marriage. Both have reached a venerable age, the mother having been eighty-four in October, 1910, while the father passed his eighty-fourth birthday on the 4th of May, 1911. Of the children born of their union eight attained maturity, the two oldest having passed away. The others, according to birth, are as follows: Emma, the wife of Mark Sharp, of Fall City, Nebraska; Anna, who married L. Hudler, of South Dakota; Cynthia, who became the wife of A. H. Dalahide, of Audubon county, Iowa; Charles, a resident of Letts; Edward B.; Harvey, living in Bentonville, Arkansas; Carrie, who married John Holtz, of Muscatine county; and Link N., who is engaged in the drug business in Letts.

In the public schools of Louisa county Edward B. Gipple acquired his education. In common with the majority of farmer lads he early assisted in the work



of the homestead, giving his entire attention to this after leaving the school-room. When he attained his majority he considered that he was fully qualified to begin his independent career as an agriculturist, and so bought eighty acres of land in Audubon county, which he operated for eight years. Disposing of that farm, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, Elm Grove township, Louisa county. Meeting with success in his farm work he has been able to add to his holdings at various times until he now owns three hundred and sixty-five acres of valuable and productive land. During the period of his residence here he has erected all of the buildings now standing on his place, having large, commodious barns and sheds and a fine house. In connection with the tilling of his extensive fields, which are almost entirely sown to such cereals as are used in feeding, he raises stock. He feeds and ships his own cattle and hogs, this having proven to be a very lucrative venture.

For his wife and helpmate Mr. Gipple chose Miss Lona Metzger, their union being celebrated on the 27th of December, 1882. Mrs. Gipple is the eldest child of Nathan and Sally (Felencer) Metzger, unto whom were born nine children, seven now living: Lona, now Mrs. Gipple; Ella, the wife of Frank Chamberlain, of Louisa county; and Jacob, Simon, David, Levi and Edward, all of whom reside in this county. One child died in infancy, and Matilda, the second in order of birth, is deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gipple eight children were born, but the eldest, a little daughter, died in infancy. The other seven are as follows: Charles and George, both of whom reside in Louisa county; Glennie, the wife of L. Huston, also of this county; and Harrison, Vernon, Hilton and Pearl, all of whom are at home.

The family always attend the Evangelical church of which the parents are members. Ever since being granted the full rights of citizenship upon attaining his majority Mr. Gipple has given his political support to the candidates of the republican party. Such success as has crowned the efforts of Mr. Gipple is the direct result of industry and thrift as well as clear judgment and intelligence in the direction of his undertakings.

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### JERRY G. KLOTZ.

The well tilled fields of a two hundred and fifty acre farm in Union township do full credit to the agricultural skill of Jerry G. Klotz, one of Louisa county's sons whose natal day was the 15th of December, 1865. His parents, John and Emeline (Mooheart) Klotz, are natives of Pennsylvania. In the '50s they came to Iowa, settling in Louisa county where Mr. Klotz purchased some land in the cultivation of which he engaged until 1905. In April of that year his wife passed away and he has since resided in Johnson county, Iowa. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Klotz seven children were born: Jerry G.; H. J.; Laura, the wife

of Joseph Guins of Washington county, Iowa; Cora M.; Maud, who is deceased; Rovenia; and Robert, who is deceased.

The boyhood and youth of J. G. Klotz were spent on the farm where he was born, while he pursued his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. As is usual with farmer lads he was early trained in the work of the homestead, in which occupation he was engaged during the greater portion of the time when not in the schoolroom. Thus when he had attained his majority he felt fully qualified to assume the responsibility of operating a farm and so rented some land which he cultivated for fifteen years. In 1910 he purchased his present place, which is located on sections 3 and 4, Union township, and here he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock.

On the 21st of May, 1895, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Schomberg, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Hahn) Schomberg, who are now residing in Muscatine, he having retired in 1901, after long cultivating a farm of about four hundred acres in Louisa county. Mr. Schomberg's biographical record appears on another page of this work. Two children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Klotz: Gertrude J. and Grace Mildred. The family attend the Reformed church in which the parents hold membership and Mr. Klotz gives his political support to the democratic party. He is not an office seeker but has served in his district as school director, always having taken an earnest and active interest in educational matters. Although he has not long been residing upon his present place Mr. Klotz is going to have one of the fine homesteads of the township. His land is all in a high state of cultivation and he is keeping a high grade of stock, making a specialty of Poland China hogs, roan Durham and shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. A man of progressive ideas, keen judgment and perseverance he will unquestionably meet with excellent success in his ventures.

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#### A. J. GREINER, D. D. S.

The dental profession is very capably represented in Grand View by Dr. A. J. Greiner, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 6th of April, 1887. His parents are W. P. and Katherine E. (Bretz) Greiner, the father a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother of Virginia, their marriage, however, occurring in Muscatine. Subsequent thereto they settled upon a farm, in the cultivation of which Mr. Greiner engaged until his retirement in 1905, since which time they have been residing in the vicinity of Muscatine. Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Greiner were born five children, in the following order: W. S., who is a farmer in Muscatine county; Myrtle M., the wife of C. W. McPike, of Muscatine county; Edna M., who is still at home; A. J.; and Frona, who is deceased.

The preliminary education of A. J. Greiner was acquired in the village schools in the vicinity of his home, following which he attended the German-

English College at Wilton Junction for a year. He also pursued a commercial course in the Muscatine Business College, of which institution he is a graduate, and for a year attended the Iowa City Academy. His professional course he took in the department of dentistry of the State University at Iowa City, being awarded his degree with the class of 1909. On the 2d of August, 1909, he established an office in Grand View where he has since been engaged in practice. He is the only dentist in the town and having proven his ability and fitness for the vocation he represents has built up a very good practice.

Dr. Greiner is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, being affiliated with the lodge at Letts. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in the lodge of Grand View. During the period of his residence in Grand View he has made many friends, all of whom speak of him in high terms both professionally and socially.

#### DANIEL SNYDER.

Agricultural pursuits have always engaged the attention of Daniel Snyder, who for the past eight years has been engaged in general farming in Grand View township. He was born in Louisa county on the 13th of November, 1849, his parents being Philip and Rebecca (Thomas) Snyder. The father was a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania, and they were married in the Keystone state in 1844. In 1848 they came to Louisa county, Iowa, settling on a farm of eighty acres which Mr. Snyder purchased in Grand View township. He continued the operation of this place until his death, which occurred on the 22d of February, 1889. During the forty-one years of his residence in Iowa Mr. Snyder had acquired four hundred and twenty acres of land, all of which was well improved and under a high state of cultivation at the time of his demise. Mrs. Snyder survived until 1891, her death occurring in the month of July. By their union there were born nine children, five of whom are surviving: George, the eldest, who is living with his brother Daniel; John, a resident of Letts; Daniel, our subject; Julia, the wife of John Wagoner, a resident of Richmond, Kansas; and Reuben, who is living in Des Moines. Those deceased are as follows: Philip, Catherine, Caroline and Rebecca.

The first thirty-one years of the life of Daniel Snyder were spent on the homestead where he was born, his education being acquired in the district schools of the locality. After laying aside his text-books he gave his entire attention to the work of the farm, under the supervision of his father, until he was twenty-four. At the expiration of that period he began operating the homestead on the shares, this arrangement existing for seven years. In 1880 he went to Nebraska, where he filed claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he farmed for twelve years. Disposing of same at the end of that time he returned to Iowa, and in 1894 he bought ninety acres in the vicinity of Fairfield, Jefferson county,



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL SNYDER



which he cultivated until 1903. He then sold his interests there and returned to Louisa county, purchasing his present homestead in Grand View township. Besides this place he owns some town property, including a residence in Muscatine.

At Red Cloud, Nebraska, June 6, 1882, Mr. Snyder married Miss Mary Wittwer, a native of Switzerland, which country was also the birthplace of her parents, Christian and Anna (Street) Wittwer. She died January 14, 1903. On the 27th of January, 1904, Mr. Snyder was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Reet Burris, the widow of Leonard Burris and a daughter of Nelson and Caroline (VanWagoner) Reet, natives of Ohio. Her father passed away in 1887 and the mother on the 14th of December, 1910. Four of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Reet are living: J. S., who is a resident of Louisa county; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Snyder; A. F., who is living in Wapello; and Elmeda, the widow of Lee Buel. The five deceased are as follows: Solomon, William, Rachel, Hannah and Melissa. Mrs. Snyder had six children by her first husband, two of whom are living: James M., who is forty years of age, now residing in Davenport, Iowa; and Caroline, the widow of Mike Pfeifer. Those deceased are Margaret, Gertrude, Leonard and an infant who is unnamed.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder manifest their religious faith by their affiliation with the Congregational church, with which they have long been identified and among whose membership they find many congenial acquaintances and friends.

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#### OWEN WEHR.

Owen Wehr, who engages in general farming on a two hundred acre tract in Union township, was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, December 11, 1833, and is a son of Michael and Maria (Metzker) Wehr. His parents were also natives of the Keystone state as were the grandparents but the paternal great-grandfather was a native of Switzerland. The parents spent their entire lives in the state of their nativity where the father engaged in farming until his demise, which occurred when he was about seventy-seven years of age, while the mother passed away some time after the seventieth anniversary of her birth. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wehr were born nine children, but two of whom are now surviving: our subject, the elder; the other being Wilson, who is a resident of Lehigh county, Pennsylvania. Those deceased are: David, Reuben, Steven, Lydia, Maria, Louisa and Sallie, all of whom passed away in Pennsylvania.

The boyhood and youth of Owen Wehr were not unlike those of other farmer lads of the period. In the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools of his native state, during which time he was also becoming familiar with the most practical methods of tilling the fields. He was twenty-two years of age when he left home and settled in Indiana, where for nine years he followed the carpenter's trade and also engaged in contracting. At the end of that time he decided to go to farming and for two years thereafter cultivated the soil. In 1858 he again started westward, this time locating in Louisa county,

where he has lived continuously since. Two years after his arrival he began improving and cultivating a portion of the land which forms his present homestead. He has at various times extended the boundaries of his farm, which now embraces two hundred acres of fertile land. His holdings, which are located on section 31, Union township, contain well constructed substantial buildings, which, owing to his skill as a carpenter, Mr. Wehr is always able to keep well repaired and in good condition. Good fences enclose his fields, all of which have been brought to a high state of cultivation and annually yield abundant harvests. In common with the majority of Iowa farmers Mr. Wehr devotes a great deal of time and attention to the raising and feeding of stock, and always keeps a goodly number of cattle and hogs on his place. \*

For his companion and helpmate on the journey of life Mr. Wehr chose Miss Lydia Lecklitner, their union being solemnized in January 1, 1860. Mrs. Wehr is a native of Indiana and a daughter of David and Magdelina (Wehr) Lecklitner, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were also married. They migrated to Indiana during the pioneer days locating in Clinton county where for many years the father cultivated a homestead. He passed away in 1886 and the mother in 1891. Their family also numbered nine children and of the three surviving Mrs. Wehr is the eldest, the other two being: Moses, who is a resident of Indiana; and Rebecca, who became the wife of Allen Glick, of Indiana. Those deceased are as follows: Saloma, Paul, Ellen, Maria, Polly and Aaron, all of whom, with the exception of Paul and Maria, passed away in Indiana.

Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wehr have been born four children: Joseph A., who is married and living in Washington county where he owns and cultivates a farm; Rosa, the wife of Oscar Dreibelbis, of Pennsylvania; Ella, the wife of W. J. Walker, who is engaged in the real-estate business in Des Moines, Iowa; and Nettie Leotta, who died at the age of two years.

In political affairs Mr. Wehr has always affiliated with the democratic party but has never been an aspirant to official honors. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic order, being a member of the lodge at Columbus Junction. Both he and his wife are identified with the Reformed church. The success which has attended the efforts of Mr. Wehr would do credit to the endeavors of any man, and is all the more commendable in view of the fact that it is the result of the well directed efforts of one who started out empty-handed at the age of twenty-two years.

#### THOMAS M. BROWN.

Among the self-made men of Louisa county must be numbered Thomas M. Brown, who for over sixty-seven years was identified with the agricultural development of Muscatine county, but is now living retired in Letts. He was born in Union county, Indiana, on the 24th of December, 1832, being a son of Mathew and Julia F. (Bromage) Brown. The father was a native of North

Carolina, his birth occurring in 1806, while the mother, who was a Virginian, was born in 1810. He was of German extraction and she of English. They were married in Indiana in 1827, continuing to make that state their home for some years thereafter. Seven children were born to them, four of whom survive: Thomas M.; H. P., who is a resident of Letts; N. J., who lives in Dallas county, Iowa; and Emily, the widow of Sidney Davis, of North Bend, Wisconsin. The father passed away in 1842 but the mother survived until 1893.

Thomas M. Brown's boyhood and youth lacked the advantages and pleasures which are generally considered to be the rightful heritage of every child. Being but a lad of eight years when his father died and one of the elder members of a large family he early had to assume the responsibilities which belong to manhood. At the age of thirteen he had to terminate his schooling, which had consisted of a three months' course, and become a wage earner. For ten years thereafter he worked in the pineries—not the best place for the intellectual or moral development of a lad. In the winter he felled trees and in the spring and summer rafted the logs down the Mississippi to the mills. He was an ambitious young man and desired to get along in the world so in 1855 he rented a sawmill on the present site of Columbus Junction. This he operated for two years during which time he sawed the lumber for the first railroad bridge which spanned the Cedar river. At the expiration of that time he leased two hundred and forty acres of land which he cultivated for five years. In February, 1859, he took charge of Lord's ferry on the Cedar river, continuing to run it until 1862, in August of which year he enlisted in Company F, Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry, and went to the front as first sergeant of his company. He was in seventeen general engagements besides many skirmishes. In front of Spanish Fort, at the capture of Mobile, Alabama, he was hit by a piece of shell in the left leg, which incapacitated him for three months. This wound still bothers him some. He served until the 29th of August, 1865, when he received his discharge at Davenport. Returning to Muscatine county he bought the interests of the other heirs in his father's homestead, which he operated in connection with two hundred and forty acres which he rented. In 1877 he bought this also, improving it and bringing it to a high state of cultivation. He continued to engage in farming for thirty years at the end of which time he sold his property and retired to Letts, where he owns one of the finest residences in the town.

Mr. Brown established a home for himself by his marriage, on the 3d of July, 1856, to Miss Sophia Ferry, a native of the state of New York. Her parents were Silas and Flavia (French) Ferry, the mother a native of Massachusetts and the father of Pennsylvania. They were married in the state of New York, whence they came to Iowa in 1838 locating in Burlington. Of the thirteen children born unto them only five are surviving: Sophia, now Mrs. Brown; Sarah P., the wife of John Lambert, of Guthrie county; Henry L., of South Flavia, the wife of Josiah Ballet, of Oxford, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Ferry Flavia, the wife of Josiah Ballet, of Oxford, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Ferry resided in Iowa until their death, during which time the father figured quite prominently in public affairs, having been sheriff and deputy sheriff in Des



Moines county for sixteen years. At the time of his death he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in Orono township, Muscatine county. He passed away in 1863, having survived his wife for thirteen years, her demise occurring in 1850.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born nine children: Edwin B., who is married and farming in South Dakota, where he owns one thousand acres of land; Henry, who died at the age of four years, while Mr. Brown was in the army; Cora, who was fourteen months old at the time of her demise; Horace, who is married and follows farming in Durham, Missouri, where he owns some fine property; Myra, the deceased wife of Louis Norris, who is a foreman in the Denver & Rio Grande shops at Grand Junction, Colorado; Julia W., the wife of Sully Blake, a farmer of Muscatine county; Hugh, who is a resident of Wiley, Colorado; Vesta, who married Ivan Hadley, of Muscatine, Iowa; and Lucius, who married Blanche Shellebarger and is now residing in Letts. Realizing from his own experience the disadvantage of a limited education, Mr. Brown sent all of his children through high school.

Fraternally Mr. Brown is a member of the Masonic order, being affiliated with Letts Lodge, No. 545, A. F. & A. M., which he joined in 1874. In politics he is a democrat but has never been an office seeker. He is one of the highly respected men of Letts. Despite the hardships and handicaps he encountered as a young man he has conquered by sheer force of his own determination and has attained the goal where many a man, possessing better early advantages has failed.

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### C. V. COCKLIN.

Success has rewarded the intelligently directed efforts of C. V. Cocklin, who for over twenty years has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in Grand View township. He was born in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, on the 24th of July, 1857, and is a son of Reuben F. and Margaret (Beck) Cocklin, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Soon after their marriage they came to Iowa, living in Burlington for a short time, and from there they removed to Pottawattamie county, whence they came to Louisa county. They located on a farm which Mr. Cocklin purchased in Grand View township and there they continued to reside until they retired to Grand View in 1908. He passed away on the 26th of February, 1910, but his wife still survives at the venerable age of eighty-four and is living in Grand View. Five children were born to them: Letitia, the wife of Benton Christie, of Grand View; Clark, who is a resident of Grand View township; Mary B., the wife of George Rexroth, of Grand View; C. V., the subject of this sketch; and George W., who is living in Muscatine.

C. V. Cocklin was reared on the old homestead in this county, obtaining his education in the district schools. He began assisting with the work of the farm while still a very young lad and at the age of nineteen he became a wage

earner. For six years thereafter he worked as a farm hand, withdrawing from that employment when he was married to begin for himself. He subsequently rented land which he cultivated for nine years, during which time he acquired sufficient capital to buy thirty acres of land. This formed the nucleus of his present farm, to which he has since added at different times until the aggregate of his present holdings is three hundred and eighty-two acres. Mr. Cocklin's homestead is located on section 36, Grand View township, and two hundred acres of it is under a high state of cultivation. The property is well improved and cared for, and the stock and grain adequately housed, while everything radiates an air of thrift and prosperity. In connection with the cultivation of his fields he raises and feeds stock, the latter having proven to be especially lucrative.

The 4th of September, 1881, was the date of the marriage of Mr. Cocklin and Miss Millie Bernard, who was born in Port Louisa township on the 7th of January, 1863. She is a daughter of Charles and Mary (Schneider) Bernard, the father a native of Gallipolis, Ohio, and the mother of Germany, but they were married in this county. The father worked out for a few years after their marriage and then bought a farm, which he cultivated until his death in June, 1910. Mrs. Bernard still survives at the age of eighty and makes her home with her daughter. Of the nine children born to them six are deceased, those surviving being: Ella, who married Nicholas Yancy, of the state of Washington; Millie, now Mrs. Cocklin; and Myra, who married James Haroff, of Louisa county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cocklin have been born five children: Charles R., who was born on the 21st of June, 1884, and is now married and living on a portion of his father's homestead; George B., born on the 30th of March, 1886, who married Lucille Paris and reside on the home farm; Jessie L., born on the 28th of March, 1892; Howard, born on the 8th of October, 1895; and Bessie, whose birth occurred April 30, 1899.

His political allegiance Mr. Cocklin accords the candidates of the republican party and he is now serving as a trustee, while for fifteen years he has been a member of the school board. He is one of the progressive and intelligent citizens of the community whose support is always given to every movement which will tend to better local conditions.

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### SAMUEL H. CREIGHTON.

The building interests of Oakville find a very capable representative in Samuel H. Creighton, who has long been successfully engaged in contracting in Louisa county. His birth occurred in Elliott township on the 23d of March, 1873, and he is the eldest son of David J. and Mary R. (Conrod) Creighton, now residents of Mediapolis. The father is also a native of this county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. David J. Creighton were born five children, the other four being

as follows: Emily Ann, the widow of Frank Robinson, of Ottumwa, Iowa; Melissa H., who married George Cobbs, of Ottumwa; Dennis, who is a resident of Mediapolis; and Letta, who became the wife of Fred Wallace, also of Ottumwa.

After the completion of his education, which was acquired in the district schools, Samuel H. Creighton learned the carpenter's trade, being at that time but eighteen years of age. Gradually he extended the scope of his activities until he is now engaged in contracting and building. He also owns a cement block factory in Oakville, where he manufactures every form of block used in the construction of buildings. The first cement house erected in Oakville was designed and built by Mr. Creighton, and he also designed and constructed the new fire-proof high school building. More than average success has attended his efforts and he now owns three pieces of residence property in Oakville and also a number of lots.

In 1896 Mr. Creighton married Miss Anna Carter, also a native of Louisa county. Prior to her marriage she was identified with the educational interests of the county, being a teacher in the public schools.

Fraternally Mr. Creighton is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being identified with Oakville Lodge, No. 135, I. O. O. F., and he votes the republican ticket but has never been an office seeker. A good workman and capable business man, he possesses the essential qualities to assure success in the work he has elected to follow, from which he has realized gratifying returns.

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### JOSEPH H. DODDER.

The operation of a valuable farm of two hundred acres in Grand View township engages the attention of Joseph H. Dodder, who was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, on the 4th of February, 1846. His parents, Henry and Margaret (Ripley) Dodder were both born in 1807 in the state of New Jersey, which was also the scene of their marriage. They continued to reside there until 1850 when they migrated to Iowa, locating in Louisa county. Here the father bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres which is now comprised in the homestead of his son Joseph H. The mother passed away in 1864, but the father survived until the 14th of November, 1887, always having lived on his farm. Of the seven children born unto them all but the youngest son were natives of New Jersey. The order of their birth is as follows: Jacob, who is deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of George W. Benson, of Iowa City; Margaret, who married Ira H. Walker, of Grand View; Sarah, the wife of Merrick Murphy, of New York; Isaiah, who was killed at the battle of Belmont during the Civil war; Joseph H., our subject; and Albert, who is a resident of Grand View.

Being only a child of four years of age when his parents located in Iowa Joseph H. Dodder has spent practically his entire life in the county where he

now resides, and in whose common schools he was educated. At the age of seventeen years he joined the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, enlisting on the 1st of September, 1863. He went into quarters at Davenport, going from there to St. Louis, thence to Devil's Bluff, Arkansas, remaining at the front until the 6th of March, 1866, at which time he was honorably discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas.

When he returned to Iowa he worked on a farm for a short time, and then rented some land which he cultivated for five years. At the end of that time he bought sixty acres which he disposed of later, subsequently buying the old homestead. Since acquiring this he has added to it another eighty acres, making his aggregate holdings two hundred acres, all of which is fertile land. He has made many improvements upon his place, which is now one of the valuable and attractive properties of the township. His homestead is located on section 21 and in addition to this he owns four hundred acres of land in eastern Colorado.

On the 10th of August, 1867, occurred the marriage of Mr. Dodder and Miss Margaret Stineman, who was born in Vermilion, Ohio, on the 21st of February, 1846, and passed away in 1901. Her parents were Philip and Margaret Stineman, natives of Germany, who upon their arrival in this country first located in Ohio. They resided there until 1853 at which time they migrated to Iowa settling on a farm in Louisa county, where they resided until their death. To them was born a large family but one of whom now survives, David, who is a resident of Muscatine.

Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dodder were born five children: Edward H., who has a high school education, and is a resident of Letts; Ella, the wife of J. E. McGrew, of Grand View; Elizabeth, who taught school for twelve years, and is the wife of George W. McDill; Anna, at home, who has been teaching for eighteen years; and Myrtle, the wife of Charles Rilliett, who is the principal of a school in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Dodder and family affiliate with the Evangelical church of which his wife was also a member, and politically he is a republican, but has never sought public office. He is as loyal as a citizen as he was brave as a soldier and always meets the demands of public responsibility, but has never felt that his duty called him into the political arena.

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### RENWICK HUSTON.

One of the retired agriculturists of Des Moines county, who for the past fifteen years has been a resident of Morning Sun, is Renwick Huston, who was born in Fayette county, Indiana, on the 5th of May, 1837. Born and reared on a farm he acquired his education in the district schools of his native state, following which he engaged in agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he acquired a very fine piece of farm land which he cultivated until 1875, at which time he disposed of his interests and removed to Iowa. Upon his arrival in

this state he located in Des Moines county where he bought a farm which he operated until his retirement in 1890. He subsequently came to Morning Sun where he bought a fine residence and has ever since continued to make this his home. Since settling here Mr. Huston has devoted his attention to the cement business, having been awarded the contracts for the most of the sidewalks which have been laid during that time.

Mr. Huston was united in marriage, on the 26th of December, 1860, to Miss Katherine Knight, who was born in Monroe county, Indiana. Mrs. Huston was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Knight, the father a native of North Carolina and the mother of Virginia. They migrated to Indiana during the pioneer days, continuing to make that state their home until they passed away. Of the twelve children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Knight eight are surviving. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Huston was blessed with three daughters and two sons: Rosanna J., the wife of C. H. Bonner, of Morning Sun; Elizabeth H., who married A. C. McHenry, of Downs, Iowa; Mary B., who became the wife of Herman Weinrich, of Des Moines county; Robert J., who is a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota; and Thomas R., who is living in Morning Sun.

His first presidential vote Mr. Huston cast for Abraham Lincoln and he has ever since given his support to the candidates of the republican party. Not being an office seeker, however, he has never actively participated in political affairs but has met the requirements of good citizenship by casting a ballot on election day. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which organization they take an active and helpful part, counting among its congregation many warm friends.

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#### FRED EARL DUNHAM.

Fred Earl Dunham, who owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty-four acres in Louisa county, where he engages in general farming and stock-raising, was born in this county on the 19th of May, 1883, and is a son of Sylvanus and Martha (Jamison) Dunham. Reared on the home farm, his early education was acquired in the common schools and later he pursued a commercial course in a business college at Burlington, Iowa. After laying aside his text-books he returned to the home farm, which he operated for his mother. He now owns three hundred and twenty-four acres of land, upon which he engages in general farming, but makes a specialty of breeding and raising fine stock. In partnership with his brother, Harry A. Dunham, he owns a thorough bred registered stallion named Bridge Hill Conqueror and nine registered mares, named: Dunsby May Queen, Keepsake 10573, Burglefield Trinket 11882, Bethlehem Surprise, March Lulu, Dunsby March Queen, Countess Drafter, Horbling Julia II and Princess 10559. Success has attended the efforts of Mr. Dunham and he is becoming recognized as one of the capable agriculturists and horsemen of the state of Iowa.





FRED E. DUNHAM



MRS. FRED E. DUNHAM





On the 12th of April, 1905, Mr. Dunham was united in marriage to Miss Leila Ethel Lowe, a daughter of George B. and Alice (Wagner) Lowe, natives of Iowa, in whose family were three children, as follows: Bert, Ralph and Leila, all residents of this county. Mrs. Dunham is a member of the Eastern Star.

His political support Mr. Dunham gives the republican party, considering that its policy is best adapted to protect the interests of the majority. Although he is a public-spirited citizen, he has never sought political honors. An ambitious, as well as industrious and enterprising young man, he has given proof beyond question of possessing the essential factors of success, and gauging his future by his past it gives every assurance of being most promising.

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### JEREMIAH BROWNING.

A well known pioneer settler of Louisa county is Jeremiah Browning, who for more than fifty years was actively engaged in the cultivation of his farm in Grand View township where he is now living retired. He was born in New Jersey on the 19th of November, 1825, and is a son of William and Grace (Fish) Browning. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents were early colonial settlers, living near Philadelphia, and in all probability some of the ancestors of Jeremiah Browning were soldiers in the Revolutionary war. After their marriage the parents located in Gloucester county, New Jersey, where they resided until 1839. In the latter year they came to Iowa, entering a claim in Concord township, Louisa county. Here about 1848 the father passed away and the mother died in 1876, in the house in which her son Jeremiah now resides. Of their union there were born twelve children of whom the son Jeremiah is the only one surviving.

Little opportunity was given Jeremiah Browning to acquire an education. He was only a lad of fourteen when the family settled in Louisa county, where at that time the educational facilities, in the rural districts particularly, were very limited and inadequate for the settlers were too few and lived too far apart to organize a school and when the district had become sufficiently populated to support a school he was too old to attend. Iowa formed a portion of the frontier at that period. Life was very primitive and upon those brave men and women who form the advance guard of civilization devolved all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. The Browning family was large, their means limited and the source of revenue very uncertain, so that while little more than a lad the son Jeremiah was compelled to assume the responsibilities of manhood. When he first began working for himself he broke prairie with oxen, following this employment for several years thereafter. Some time later he bought sixty acres of land which he cultivated for a short period then sold. In 1859 he bought his present homestead, which contains two hundred and sixty acres of land on section 29, Grand View township. He has made all of the im-

provements upon his place which he continued to cultivate until 1901, when he retired from active farming, but still lives there.

Mr. Browning, who has twice married, took for his first wife Miss Mary Randleman, to whom he was united in 1854. Their life together was not long as she passed away in 1859. Three sons were born of this union: George, William and John, all of whom are deceased. Mr. Browning was a widower for eleven years, then in 1870 he married Miss Sarah Walker, a native of the east. Unto them were born six children: Susan, who lives in Muscatine; Edith and Mary, who are deceased; Grace, a resident of Louisa county; Charley, the only son, also deceased; and Ethel, the wife of Hilton Lieberknecht. Mr. Browning died in the spring of 1901.

In religion Mr. Browning is of the Christian faith, while in politics he is a democrat, but has never been an officer seeker. Mr. Browning is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Grand View township and is accorded the respect which rightfully belongs to one whose years are many and whose life is honorable.

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#### WILLIAM WILSON.

A member of the board of supervisors of Louisa county and a well known retired agriculturist of Letts is William Wilson, who for many years was identified with the farming interests of Concord township. His birth occurred in Ireland on the 4th of May, 1840, his parents being John and Maria (Courtney) Wilson, also natives of the Emerald isle, born in County Armagh. They emigrated to the United States in 1874, first locating in Louisa county, Iowa, where the father operated a farm until 1886. He then withdrew from agricultural pursuits and retired to Muscatine, where Mrs. Wilson passed away November 16, 1901, but he survived until October 7, 1907. Four children were born to them: Robert, who is living on a farm in Louisa county; William, our subject; John C., a resident of Muscatine; and Elizabeth, the wife of John C. Neil, who is a farmer in Kansas.

William Wilson, who was twenty-five years of age when his parents emigrated to America, was already an established agriculturist in Louisa county. In the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools of his native land, following which he decided to test the truth of the stories he had so often heard about the opportunities to be found by ambitious young men in the United States. When he was twenty-two years of age he purchased eighty acres of land and after cultivating it for a year disposed of it, buying one hundred and eighty acres in Concord township. He continued to operate this latter property during the remainder of his active career as a farmer. In 1892 he removed to Letts, where for ten years he engaged in the lumber business. He sold out in 1902 and has since been living retired. At the present time he owns one hundred and eighty acres of highly cultivated land in Louisa county, and three

quarter sections in South Dakota, which he is renting, in addition to his true residence in Letts.

On the 2d of March, 1875, Mr. Wilson established a home for himself by his marriage to Miss Anna McLean, a daughter of John W. and Fannie (Preston) McLean, natives of Catlettsburg, Kentucky. The father was killed during the Civil war, and the mother, who is now seventy-two, continues to reside in the Blue Grass state. Three children were born to them, two of whom are living, Nora, the wife of John Boyd, of Catlettsburg, Kentucky; and Mrs. Wilson. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have been born two daughters: Elizabeth, the wife of W. E. McDaniel, who is in the employ of the Russell Miller Flour Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and May, at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Letts Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M. His political support is always given to the republican party, he having been identified with that body ever since granted the right of franchise by naturalization. He has ever taken an active interest in all political affairs and has served two terms as a member of the board of supervisors. Such success as has been awarded the efforts of Mr. Wilson is the well merited result of industry, perseverance and intelligently directed endeavors, as he came to America practically empty-handed.

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#### H. N. P. SMALL.

A prosperous farmer of Letts is H. N. P. Small, who for more than half a century has been identified with the agricultural development of Louisa county. His birth occurred in the state of Maine on the 28th of August, 1836, his parents being James G. and Harriet (Mitchell) Small, also natives of that state. The early years of their domestic life were spent in Maine, where Mr. Small, who was a carpenter, followed his trade and also engaged in contracting. In 1848 they removed to Chicago, Illinois, remaining there for seven years. At the expiration of that period they came to Iowa, settling on a farm a mile west of Letts in Louisa county. The father continued to cultivate that until his death, at which time he owned one hundred and sixty acres of highly improved land. The mother passed away in 1863. Five children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Small in the following order: Martha, who died in infancy; John H., a resident of Chicago, Illinois, who is now deceased; H. N. P., our subject; James L., who is living in Stanford, California; and Isaac L., who was killed at the siege of Vicksburg, during the Civil war. About one year after the death of his wife James G. Small was married to Miss Lephah Clark of Ottumwa, who died four years later. When two years had elapsed he was united to Mrs. Cook, a widow living in Moline, Illinois, who survived him fifteen years, her demise occurring in 1900. He was seventy-eight years of age when he died on the 12th of December, 1885.

The education of H. N. P. Small was obtained in the public schools of his native state and in Chicago, Illinois. For three years after the family settled in Iowa he remained at home assisting in the cultivation of the homestead. He subsequently rented land of his father for several years, following which he purchased eighty acres. After improving and cultivating this he disposed of it and bought his present homestead near Letts. He has added to his holdings here at different times until he now owns two hundred and forty acres of finely improved and highly cultivated land, all of which is being tilled with the exception of a small tract which is still in timber. In addition to his homestead Mr. Small owns a fine residence in Letts and three vacant and six improved lots, while he has two hundred and eighty acres of farm land in Texas and eight acres within the city limits of Hereford, Texas and a quarter section in Minnesota. His possessions have all been accumulated through his own unaided efforts.

On the 13th of June, 1860, Mr. Small was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Williams, who was born in the state of New York on the 11th of June, 1845. She is the only daughter and youngest child born to Jeremiah W. and Elizabeth (Bosweth) Williams, both natives of Connecticut, in which state they were reared and married. In 1840 they removed to the Empire state and there Mr. Williams passed away in 1848. The mother later removed to Illinois with her children and after residing there for a short time they came to Louisa county. Here she married David Letts, who only lived a few years thereafter. Mrs. Letts survived until 1873, her demise occurring on the 9th of January. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Williams were born six children, the five sons being as follows: Daniel E., who died when he was seventy-six years of age; Ira, who passed away when fifty-six; Edward R., who was seventy-one when he died; and Edward and Edwin, twins, born in 1837, the former of whom passed away in 1902 and the latter in 1907.

To Mr. and Mrs. Small were born six children, four of whom survive, in order of birth as follows: Harriet M., who was born on the 22d of July, 1865, married F. H. McDaniels, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and they have one child, Matie. Gertrude L., whose birth occurred on the 17th of February, 1867, married Dr. A. J. Weaver, of Muscatine, and they have one daughter, Ida A. James Grant, who was born on the 14th of December, 1868, is engaged in farming one mile west of Letts. He married Nannie Idle of Letts and they have four children: Arthur H., Mollie, Alice and Horatio N. P. Mary, who is the youngest child, was born on the 1st of February, 1873. She married A. W. Morgan, of Muscatine. Those deceased—the two eldest—are as follows: Martha E., the wife of George Wagner, of Grand View township, who was born on the 15th of September, 1861, and died on the 29th of March, 1896; and Henry L. L., who was born on the 29th of March, 1863, and died on the 16th of July, 1864.

Fraternally Mr. Small is affiliated with the Masonic order, his local identification being with Letts Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., and both he and his wife hold membership in the Congregational church. He has always exercised

his right of suffrage in support of the candidates of the republican party and has filled all of the township offices. He has been one of the successful agriculturists of Louisa county but, despite the time required to look after his extensive personal interests, always found it possible to assist in the administration of township affairs, thus meeting to the best of his ability his responsibilities as a citizen. He assisted in the erection of the first building in Letts.

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### R. F. EDMONDSON.

R. F. Edmondson, a progressive and prosperous farmer and stockman of Columbus City township, Louisa county, is one of Iowa's eastern-born residents, his birth occurring in Blount county, Tennessee, on the 9th of June, 1855. His parents, William and Mary (Walker) Edmondson, also natives of that state, came to Louisa county in 1856 and here the father purchased land, upon which they resided throughout their remaining days. The mother passed away on the 22d of May, 1874, but the father survived until 1887, his death occurring in the month of June. In their family were ten children but only four are now living, namely: Eliza J., the widow of S. D. Johnston, of Columbus Junction; Margaret J., the widow of G. W. Duncan; Carolina, of Louisa county; and R. F., of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the district schools near his home, while his practical training was received in the work of the fields under the careful direction of his father. He early became familiar with the best methods of caring for land and stock, and so, upon attaining his twenty-first year, he was well equipped to carry on an independent agricultural enterprise. Leaving home, he rented a farm for a time and later purchased one hundred and eighty acres near Cotter, upon which he resided until 1892. In that year he disposed of that property and invested in his present farm of three hundred and eighty acres, located on sections 8 and 9, Columbus City township, in the operation of which he has since been engaged. He not only gives much attention to the cultivation of the soil, practicing rotation of crops and carefully studying the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, but also engages in the raising and breeding of stock. He is a man of good business faculties and the methods which he has pursued in the conduct of both branches of his interests are both progressive and honorable. His salient characteristics are industry, energy and perseverance—qualities which are indispensable in the attainment of success in any avenue of activity—and today he occupies a prominent place among the substantial and representative agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Edmondson has been twice married. In 1880 he wedded Miss Etta Duncan, who was born in Louisa county in 1857, a daughter of F. A. Duncan, now deceased. On the 8th of November, 1898, the wife and mother was called to her final rest, being survived by her four children, as follows: Mary, the wife of Ed Shellabarger, of Columbus Junction; Nellie, who married S. L. Olson, of North Dakota; William F., at home; and Dale D., a student at the high school. On the

26th of February, 1861, Mr. Edmondson was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Alice Lupton, of Columbus Junction, Iowa, a daughter of James S. and Sarah Pearson, natives of England. The parents came to America in 1845, first locating in Virginia where they remained for three years, after which they came west to Missouri, settling in St. Louis. That remained their home until 1854, in which year they arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, the father here purchasing school land for a dollar and a quarter per acre. That remained their home until the latter's death in November, 1881, when the mother removed to Columbus Junction, where she passed away in January, 1902. Of their family of eleven children but six are now living, as follows: Emily, the wife of R. Barnard, of Kansas; John and William, both residents of Davenport, Iowa; James, of Missouri; Carrie E., the wife of Hugh Roden, of Dexter, Iowa; and Mrs. Edmondson. The last named, who had a good education, taught school for about ten years previous to her marriage, and for a similar period was also engaged in clerking.

The religious faith of Mr. Edmondson is indicated by his membership in the United Presbyterian church, while in politics he is a republican. He served for some time as assessor of the township and also as township clerk, and was a member of the school board for several years. He has ever held a deep interest in the public life of the community in which he resides, and has done all in his power to further its growth and development along material, political, intellectual and moral lines. With him perseverance, diligence and integrity have constituted the guiding posts of life, bringing him to the honorable position which he now occupies in the opinion of his fellow citizens, among whom he has long lived and labored.

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### W. C. WILLIAMSON.

Among the residents of Wapello who are now living retired, their present comfortable financial position being the direct result of former activity and enterprise along agricultural lines, is numbered W. C. Williamson. He is one of Louisa county's native sons, his birth occurring on a farm on the 15th of March, 1845. His parents were James S. and Nancy E. (Nevies) Williamson, natives of Ohio and New Jersey respectively. His great-great-grandfather Nevies was the first mayor of New York. The father, whose birth occurred in Greene county, on the 29th of August, 1817, came to Iowa in 1836, during the pioneer epoch in the history of this state, and cast in his lot with the early settlers of Louisa county. Here he entered a claim from the government upon which he erected a log cabin, with clapboard roof and puncheon floor, and in that primitive dwelling passed the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1855. He was survived by his wife and five children the mother, whose birth occurred on the 1st of October, 1823, passing away July 26, 1896, at the age of seventy-three years. W. C. Williamson, the eldest of the children, and a brother, James S., now residing in Kansas, are the only surviving members of the family.



Reared amid the busy activities of rural life, W. C. Williamson attended the country schools in the acquirement of his education, and early in life was made familiar with the tasks that usually fall to the lot of the farm lad. His father passed away when he was but ten years of age, and as soon as his strength and experience permitted he took charge of the home farm, which he continued to operate until 1863. In that year, his spirit of patriotism aroused, he enlisted for service in the Civil war although but eighteen years of age. He became a soldier of Company K, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and served throughout a period of two years, being mustered out at Atlanta, Georgia, August 10, 1865. He saw service in several important and hotly contested battles but was not wounded, and after a most creditable military career was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, on the 24th of August, 1865. He participated in the battles of Guntown and Tupelo, Wilson's raid and numerous skirmishes.

After the close of the war Mr. Williamson returned to Louisa county and resumed the management of the old homestead, still in his possession. Under his direction the place, consisting of three hundred acres, became a finely improved farm, for he was progressive in his ideas and practical in his methods, and labored unceasingly for its further cultivation and development. He set out a good orchard and fine grove of trees, erected substantial and commodious barns and out-buildings, and in fact introduced all of the accessories and conveniences that go to make up a model farm. Today, his is one of the most valuable and desirable properties in the county. He engaged to some extent in stock-raising and feeding in connection with general farming and the success which came as a result of his well directed efforts along those branches made it possible for him, in 1905, to withdraw from active labor and take up his home in Wapello, where he is now living in honorable retirement. Here he purchased a beautiful dwelling where he and his family now reside. As the years have passed he has also found time to direct his attention into other channels beside agriculture and was one of the organizers of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Louisa county, of which he remained a director many years. It may be an interesting fact for our readers to know that the brick which was used in the erection of the county farm buildings was burned on Mr. Williamson's farm.

On the 5th of January, 1869, Mr. Williamson was united in marriage to Miss Wilhelmina Berkhoff, who was born in Prussia, Germany, on the 20th of July, 1844, and when but four years old was brought to this country. By her marriage to Mr. Williamson she became the mother of seven children, as follows: Julie, the wife of C. A. Eversmeyer of Louisa county; A. J., also of this county; Minnie M., who married Ed Eversmeyer, of Louisa county; Emma, the wife of H. B. Jones, also residing in this county; and three who have passed away. On the 1st of May, 1903, the wife and mother was called to her final rest, and on the 30th of November, 1905, Mr. Williamson was again married, his second union being with Miss Katherine Schafer, who is a native of New York and in 1864 came to Louisa county, Iowa, with her parents. She was one of a family of fourteen children, whose father passed away in 1896. The mother, however, survives and makes her home in this county.



Mr. Williamson has long taken an active interest in public affairs and is numbered among the county's loyal and public-spirited citizens. He has always given his political support to the republican party and has served both as township trustee and school director, while at present he is acting as president of the cemetery association, an office he has filled several years. He is liberal in his religious views and is an honored member of the Grand Army post of Wapello. The record of Mr. Williamson is in contradistinction to the old adage that "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country," for here in the county of his nativity, where he has spent a long, active and useful life, he has won the confidence, esteem and good will of all with whom he has come in contact and the consensus of public opinion accords him a prominent place among the honored and valued residents of the community.

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### JAMES McKEEVER.

One of the well tilled and capably supervised farms of Morning Sun township is that of James McKeever, who is engaged in the cultivation of two hundred acres of land located on sections 16 and 17. He was born in Ohio on the 21st of November, 1860, and is a son of John and Mary (Wasson) McKeever. The parents, who were both natives of Ireland, emigrated to the United States in their early maturity, first locating in Cincinnati, Ohio. They resided there until 1864, then removing to Peoria county, Illinois, where they both passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McKeever were born eight children, four of whom are deceased. Those surviving are: John, who is a resident of this county; Archie, who is living in Peoria county, Illinois; Jane, the widow of E. W. Geadon, of Illinois; and James, our subject.

In the acquirement of his education James McKeever attended the district schools of his native county, following which he assisted his father in the cultivation of the homestead until he was twenty-two years of age. For several years thereafter he farmed as a renter in Fulton county, Illinois, during which period he accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to become a property owner. In 1895 he came to Louisa county, purchasing the farm upon which he has ever since resided and during the ownership of which he has wrought many improvements. Here he engages in general farming, but makes a specialty of raising and feeding hogs, which has proven to be a very profitable venture.

On the 28th of September, 1889, Mr. McKeever was united in marriage to Miss Anna Loudin, a native of Ireland and a daughter of William and Mary A. (Pureill) Loudin. The family emigrated to the United States in 1880, locating in Illinois, where the mother passed away. The father, however, is still living and now makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. McKeever. Of the nine children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Loudin but seven are now living. The union of Mr. and Mrs. McKeever has been blessed with the birth of three sons and two daughters, in the

following order: Harry A., Maggie J., Ruth, Ralph and William, all of whom are at home.

The family attend the Presbyterian church of which the parents are both members. Mr. McKeever, being an ardent republican, casts his ballot in support of the candidates of that party, but never having aspired to public honors has never held any official position save that of school director. Energy and diligence, as well as keen business perception, have been the principle factors in the success of Mr. McKeever, who has become recognized as one of the prosperous residents of his community.

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### SAMUEL A. ENGLAND.

Samuel A. England, a well known and prosperous resident of Marshall township, has devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career. The farm on which he resides has been his place of abode from his birth to the present time, his natal day being September 17, 1875.

His parents were Joseph and Malinda (Skinner) England, the former a native of Lansing, Michigan, and the latter of Ohio. The father was brought to Louisa county by his parents when but two years of age and continued to reside within its borders throughout the remainder of his life, passing away on the 20th of March, 1893. His widow still survives him and now makes her home in Henry county, Iowa. Unto them were born six children, as follows: Nancy J., the wife of J. Ross, of Henry county, Iowa; Mary E., who is the wife of Robert Clark and resides in Illinois; Samuel A., of this review; Ida May, who gave her hand in marriage to Calvin Black and now makes her home in Independence, Kansas; and two who are deceased.

Samuel A. England attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education, thus becoming fitted for the practical and responsible duties of life. At the time of his father's death he took charge of the old homestead farm and has since been busily engaged in its operation. At the present time his landed holdings embrace two hundred and forty-six acres in Marshall township, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Henry county, Iowa, and a tract of one hundred and sixty-two acres at Sidney, Nebraska. In addition to the cultivation of cereals he also devotes considerable attention to raising and feeding stock, finding both branches of his business congenial as well as profitable.

On the 28th of December, 1898, Mr. England was united in marriage to Miss Ella Paisley, who was born in Morning Sun, Iowa, on the 21st of April, 1873, her parents being Robert and Eliza (Swan) Paisley, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They came to Louisa county at an early day and here Mr. Paisley passed away on the 7th of April, 1902. His widow still survives him and makes her home in Wapello, Iowa. Their children were eight in number.

Mr. England is a stalwart democrat in politics but has neither sought nor desired the honors and emoluments of office. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to Lodge No. 235 at Winfield, Iowa. He is likewise connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Carroll, Iowa. His wife's religious faith is indicated by her membership in the Presbyterian church. They have spent their entire lives in Louisa county and enjoy an extensive and favorable acquaintance here. A diligent farmer and a good citizen, in the enjoyment of a large income, Mr. England holds the respect and good will of his fellows, though his popularity is not determined by his success, but by the strong traits of honesty and integrity of purpose which have ever characterized his intercourse with others.

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### JOHN OWENS.

From the little rock-ribbed country of Wales came a goodly portion of Louisa county's substantial and respected citizens who found in the new world opportunities for advancement in business lines denied them in their native land. This number includes John Owens, now deceased, who for a number of years was identified with the industrial and agricultural pursuits of this county. He was born in the north of Wales, a son of Owen Owens, and ere leaving his native country learned the art of cabinet-making. Attracted by the rumors which he heard concerning the advantages offered on this side of the Atlantic, when but eighteen years of age he decided to seek a fortune in the United States, and accordingly made the long journey to New York, locating first at Utica, that state, where he engaged for a time at his trade. In 1860 he made his way to Louisa county, Iowa, taking up his abode in Columbus City, and here worked at cabinet-making for some time. He was an expert workman and it was not long ere he was accorded a large patronage. Later, however, deciding to enter agricultural pursuits, he purchased a farm belonging to Judge Springer and upon that place passed his remaining days. He was the owner of a good property consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 31, Columbus City township, which is still in possession of the family.

Mr. Owens was married ere leaving New York, in 1852, to Miss Jane A. Williams, who was born in south Wales and came to America in 1842. Unto them were born three children, namely: Ellen N., now deceased; Mrs. Harriet B. Schock, of Columbus City, Iowa; and R. E., now operating the old homestead. Mr. Owens passed away in 1897, and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Columbus City. Although more than a decade has come and gone since he passed from active life, he is still remembered by many of the residents of Columbus City township as a man of many sterling traits of character, who lived his life to good purpose and enjoyed the esteem and regard of his fellowmen. His widow still survives, and at a ripe old age resides upon the homestead with her son.

R. E. Owens has placed many improvements on the home place, which is now one of the valuable and desirable properties of the locality, and in connection with his general farming makes a specialty of raising and breeding full blooded Percheron horses, having many fine animals in his stables. He is known throughout the country for the high grade of his stock and is numbered among the prosperous and progressive business men of the community. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellow Lodge, No. 246, at Columbus City, and also with the Rebekahs at Columbus Junction, of which he is captain of the team. He gives his political support to the republican party and is now serving as township trustee, in which position he is casting the weight of his influence on the side of progress, advancement and improvement. He is loyal and public spirited in his citizenship and possesses those qualities which speak for honorable and upright manhood.

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### JOHN ANSON PENNIMAN BIGGER.

For six years past J. A. P. Bigger has been proprietor and editor of the Wapello Tribune and he has gained a reputation as one of the efficient factors of the country press of Iowa. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1875, a son of John M. and Kate (McVey) Bigger. In 1877 the father moved with his family to Ohio and ten years later came to Vinton, Iowa, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Two of their children are now living: J. N. S., who was born December 28, 1871, and is now a resident of Vinton, Iowa; and J. A. P., of this review.

At twelve years of age J. A. P. Bigger came to Iowa with his parents and in the public schools of Vinton he received his preliminary education. Later he possessed advantages of attendance at Tilford Collegiate Academy. As a young man he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the Vinton Eagle and has been connected with the printing business continuously for twenty years past. In 1905 he purchased the Wapello Tribune, a republican weekly, which under his management has ably represented the principles of the party and is one of the leading weekly papers in this part of the state.

On the 25th of June, 1902, Mr. Bigger was united in marriage to Miss Edna Blanche Jamison. To this union one son, Merritt Shannon, was born March 3, 1904. Mrs. Bigger is a daughter of Merritt L. and Mary Ella (Whitcomb) Jamison. Grandfather Jamison was a native of Kentucky and emigrated from that state to Ohio, where he was married. In the spring of 1840 he came with his family to Louisa county, Iowa, and for many years was identified with the stock-raising business. He was the father of seven children, four of whom survive, namely: John W., of Newport, Iowa; Jacob H., who is now engaged in the cement business at Wapello; Merritt L.; and O. B., who engaged in farming and is now living retired at Wapello. Two of the children, William and Mary, now deceased, were twins.

Merritt L. Jamison, the father of Mrs. Bigger, was born in Louisa county, August 21, 1848. He was educated in the public schools and at the Baptist University at Burlington. For about thirty years he devoted his attention to farming and stock-raising in this county and then sold his place, being now a resident of Wapello. He is a staunch supporter of the democratic party. While attending the Baptist University he met Miss Mary E. Whitcomb, who became his wife, and there were two children in their family: Edna Blanche, now Mrs. J. A. P. Bigger; and Nellie May, the wife of Frank Christie, who has charge of a dry-goods store at Brighton belonging to Mr. Jamison. Mrs. Jamison, the mother of Mrs. Bigger, is a daughter of Asahel D. and Sarah Ann (Lyon) Whitcomb, the former of whom was born at Townshend, Vermont, in October, 1830. He was left an orphan by the death of both parents at the age of seven years and was reared by relatives. He early began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he had mastered at the age of nineteen. He attained great skill in the use of tools and was a builder of cars and carriages, working for a number of years in the car shops at Burlington, Iowa. At the time of the Civil war he served in the Missouri Engineer Corps and was in the field for three years and ten months. He enlisted as sergeant but on account of his ability was promoted several times until he became captain. After the close of the war he continued in the army for a time as quartermaster. At one period of his service his duties required him, while located at Island No. 10 in the Mississippi river, to remain exposed in the water for many hours a day. On account of this exposure he lost his health, notwithstanding the best medical treatment. In October, 1849, he was married to Miss Sarah Ann Lyon, who was born May 2, 1830, at Auburn, New York, and they had two children: Mary Ella, born November 3, 1850, at Schoolcraft, Michigan, who married Merritt L. Jamison; and Amelia Delphine, born at Burlington, Iowa, December 16, 1858, who died at the age of six years. Mr. Whitcomb died in July, 1883, and his wife was called away in 1908, having for twelve years previously made her home with her daughter.

Ever since he arrived at the age of manhood Mr. Bigger of this review has been an active adherent of the republican party and as a writer has consistently supported his views upon local, state and national issues. His advice is often sought in regard to important public policies and experience has shown that his opinions as to questions effecting this section of the state are generally correct. He has many friends in Louisa county and socially is prominently connected with the Masonic order, being a past master of Wapello Lodge, No. 5, A. F. & A. M.

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#### RALPH REID HUNT.

Ralph Reid Hunt, a prominent factor in educational circles of Louisa county, is now serving his third term as county superintendent of schools. His birth occurred in Marshall township, this county, on the 16th of January, 1879, his parents being Henry R. and Laura L. (Hornsby) Hunt, both of whom are natives

of Ohio. Their marriage was celebrated in Louisa county, the father coming here with his parents when a boy and the mother taking up her abode here in the early '60s. They now make their home at Mount Vernon, Linn county, Iowa. Unto them were born seven children, five of whom are yet living.

Ralph Reid Hunt remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. Following his graduation from the high school he worked in a printing or newspaper office for three and a half years. On the expiration of that period he took up the profession of school teaching, acting as principal at Columbus City for three years. In 1906 he was elected county superintendent of schools, displaying such efficiency in fulfilling the duties of this responsible office that he has been twice honored by reelection and is now serving his third term.

On the 10th of September, 1902, Mr. Hunt was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Pearl Parsons, who was born in Louisa county on the 23d of January, 1885, her parents being Douglas D. and Jessie L. (Hook) Parsons, of this county. Douglas D. Parsons passed away in 1903 and his widow afterward gave her hand in marriage to Abe Parsons, a son of Thomas Parsons. Mrs. Hunt, who was one of a family of three children, is now the mother of two, namely: Reid L., whose natal day was July 14, 1903; and Helen Douglas, whose birth occurred on the 29th of September, 1904.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Hunt has supported the men and measures of the republican ticket. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 246 at Columbus City. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and likewise belongs to Black Lodge, No. 281, K. P., having filled nearly all of the chairs in the latter. His wife is identified with the Rebekahs and the Pythian Sisters. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are devoted and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have spent their entire lives in Louisa county and are well known and highly esteemed within its borders.

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### JOSEPH K. DUNCAN.

Joseph K. Duncan, who for the past eight years has conducted a general mercantile establishment at Cotter, well deserves mention among the enterprising and representative business men of Louisa county. His birth occurred in this county on the 31st of December, 1864, his parents being S. H. and Elizabeth (Edwards) Duncan, natives of Tennessee. The father came to Louisa county in 1842, when a little lad of five years, and has remained within its borders continuously since, still residing on a farm in Union township. Unto him and his wife were born nine children, seven of whom yet survive.

After completing his preliminary education Joseph K. Duncan pursued a course of study in a business college, thus fitting himself for the practical and responsible duties of life. On attaining his majority he rented a portion of the old homestead place and subsequently purchased a farm, devoting his attention to

its operation for a number of years. Disposing of the property, he embarked in business as a merchant of Cotter, where for the past eight years he has enjoyed a gratifying patronage as the proprietor of a general store, handling a large and well selected line of goods.

Mr. Duncan is a democrat in politics and held the office of assessor for four years. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 693 at Cotter. He has always lived in Louisa county and enjoys an enviable reputation as a reliable, progressive merchant and respected citizen.

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### C. C. LONG.

C. C. Long, as proprietor of the brick and tile factory at Columbus Junction, is thus identified with one of the important and prosperous industries of this locality. With him age has seemed no bar to success, for although he has not yet reached the thirtieth milestone on life's journey, he is nevertheless ranked among the substantial and representative business men of Columbus City township. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Keokuk county on the 27th of June, 1882, his parents being Jacob and Mary (Mishey) Long, natives of Richland county, Ohio. They came to Iowa about 1866, locating in Keokuk county on a farm which remained their home until the death of the father in December, 1904. The mother, however, yet survives and now makes her home in Oklahoma. In their family were ten children of whom nine are still living.

No event of especial importance came to vary the routine of life for C. C. Long during the period of his boyhood and youth, which was passed upon the old homestead farm in Keokuk county, and in the public schools of that county he acquired a good education, passing through consecutive grades until his graduation from the high school. He remained with his parents until his majority when, desiring to seek his own way in the world, he left home and made his way to Oregon, where for about a year and a half he was engaged in a lumber camp. At the expiration of that period he returned to Iowa and in 1909 purchased the brick and tile factory at Columbus Junction, in the operation of which he still continues. He manufactures all kinds of brick, tile and building materials and although one of the very recent arrivals in this locality he has nevertheless worked up a good trade which is constantly increasing in volume and importance. His plant is one of the important enterprises of the thriving little town of Columbus Junction and the future of the new company seems most promising.

Mr. Long was married, in 1907, to Miss Hulda Swanson, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of John and Anna Swanson. Unto this union have been born two children, Erdean R. and Myrtle. Reared in the faith of the Baptist church Mr. Long continues his identification with that organization, the teachings of which have formed the guiding rules of his life. In politics he has given his support to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise.



but the honors and emoluments of office have never had attraction for him. He prefers to concentrate his efforts upon the conduct of his business affairs, and his close application thereto is proving a salient feature in his progress. He still retains much of the enthusiasm of youth and, actuated by a laudable ambition to acquire success, he has already attained a degree which is prophetic of a bright future.

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### I. N. VAUGHN.

I. N. Vaughn is numbered among the prominent and well known citizens of Newport, Louisa county, where he is the proprietor of a prosperous general store and is also efficiently filling the office of postmaster. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Woodbury county, on the 7th of July, 1876, a son of J. N. and Rebecca (Carl) Vaughn. The parents were both born in Louisa county, this state, but later removed to Woodbury county, where they passed away. Their family consisted of five children but of this number only three are still living.

I. N. Vaughn, whose name introduces this review, was reared to farm life and acquired his education in the schools of his native county but at the age of eighteen laid aside his text-books to enter business life, his first employment being that of farm hand. He was thus engaged until twenty-two years of age. In connection with J. W. Jamison he bought a store at Newport, investing the money received as his share of his father's estate, and for six years they conducted a growing and successful enterprise. At the expiration of that period, however, Mr. Vaughn purchased the interest of his partner and has since continued in business alone. In the operation of a general mercantile store he has built up a good trade, which is constantly increasing in volume and importance for, appreciating the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement, he has carefully studied the wishes of his customers and carries a large and up-to-date stock of goods. He is industrious, enterprising and ambitious, is progressive in the management of his interests and at the same time the honest and upright methods which he has ever pursued have won for him the confidence of all with whom he has business dealings.

On the 27th of January, 1906, Mr. Vaughn was united in marriage to Miss Iva Thompson, who was born near Mount Pleasant, Iowa, a daughter of A. B. and Molera Thompson. Her parents are both natives of Ohio and are yet living, making their home in Louisa county. Their daughter Iva was one of seven children and by her marriage to Mr. Vaughn has become the mother of one daughter, Esther Marie, who was born November 5, 1906, and is the light and life of the household.

The family reside in an attractive home in Newport, which is also the property of Mr. Vaughn. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 19, at Wapello, and in politics is a stalwart supporter of republican principles. On the 7th of June, 1900, he was appointed postmaster of



Newport, but later the postoffice was discontinued and rural route, No. 2, from Wapello, was established. The office was reopened, however, and Mr. Vaughn was again appointed postmaster, August 6, 1903. In this capacity he is proving a very popular official, faithfully and capably performing the duties devolving upon him. He is yet numbered among the younger representatives of business circles in his community and thus the gratifying degree of prosperity which he has already attained augurs well for a continued and increasing success in the future.

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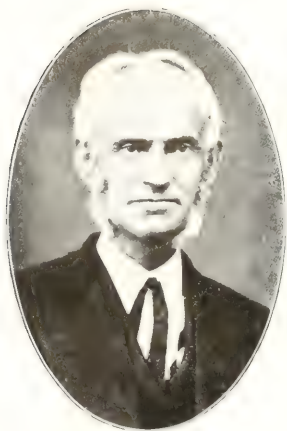
W. B. WILLIAMS.\*

W. B. Williams, a retired agriculturist of Oakville, was successfully identified with farming and stock-raising interests throughout his active business career, owning at one time nine hundred and three and a half acres of valuable land. His birth occurred in Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 9th of September, 1851, his parents being J. Wilson and Julia A. (Robison) Williams, who were natives of Vermont and Ohio respectively.

There were not many men in Iowa who had a more general acquaintance with the people of the state than J. Wilson Williams. He was born in 1816 and grew to manhood in his native state. After receiving a good academic education he adopted civil engineering and then came west, landing in Chicago in 1836. The following year he traveled through Wisconsin and Illinois and later served as deputy United States surveyor and also as county surveyor of Hancock county, Illinois. He rendered valuable service to the government in the surveying of the Mississippi river bottom. He removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, in 1838 but subsequently made a number of trips back and forth between this state and his old home near Nauvoo, but finally located permanently in Des Moines county in 1848. He was elected to the house of representatives in 1852 and again in 1856, 1861, 1865 and 1874. In 1878 he was elected a member of the senate but two years later returned to the lower house, serving much longer than most men in the state legislature. In politics he was a strong republican and in his religious views was liberal. He continued to make his home in Des Moines county until called to his final rest on the 29th of August, 1893. It was in 1847 that he was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Robison, who has now attained the age of eighty-nine years, and resides at Oakville. She has lived on the Mississippi since 1829 and was acquainted with all the old Indian chiefs of the different tribes. By her marriage she became the mother of six children, as follows: Herrick, who is deceased; Lelia, who died in infancy; W. B., of this review; another who died in infancy; Julia Eliza, the wife of David Waddle, of Missouri; and Minnie M., who has passed away.

On attaining his majority W. B. Williams rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from his father, being busily engaged in its operation for three years. On the expiration of that period he bought a tract of two hundred and

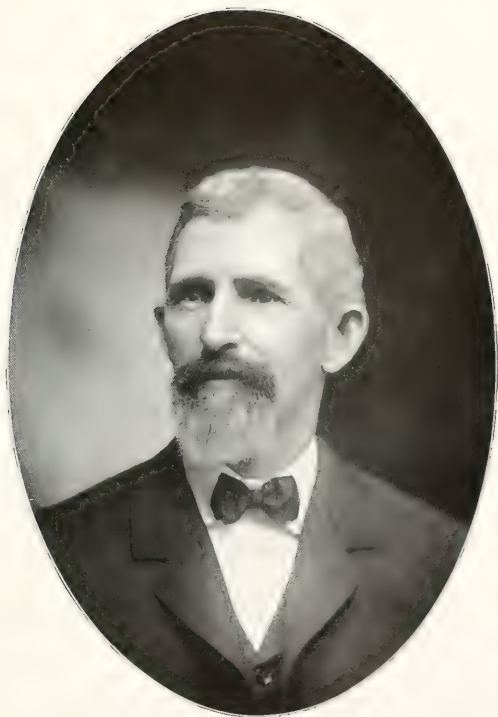




MR. AND MRS. J. W. WILLIAMS



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW CHANDLER



W. B. WILLIAMS



forty acres from his father, gradually augmenting his holdings by additional purchases until he owned altogether nine hundred and three and a half acres. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising claimed his attention until 1903, when he purchased a handsome residence in Oakville, where he has since lived retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. In 1905 he disposed of his farming property.

On the 20th of February, 1873, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Chandler, a daughter of Andrew and Caroline (Fisher) Chandler. Her parents were both natives of Germany but were married in New York and came west in 1863, first locating in Des Moines but removing to Louisa county in 1876. Her father engaged in farming until his retirement from active labor in 1897, when he removed to Oakville, Iowa, where he passed away in 1899. His wife died in 1903. Mrs. Williams was one of a family of five daughters, the others being as follows: Hortense, the deceased wife of Henry Allward, of New York; Bridget, the wife of William Coonrod, of North Dakota; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Ezra Kurtz and resides in Knoxville, Iowa; and Annie M., the wife of S. D. Gates, of Artesia, New Mexico. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Williams were born eleven children, namely: John W., who is a resident of Missouri; Carrie E., the deceased wife of Ben Luckenbill, of Des Moines county, Iowa; George H., living in Oakville, Iowa; Fannie A., the wife of Albert Hamilton, of Des Moines county; James Albert, who is a resident of Oakville, Iowa; Maud C., the wife of Marion Bailey, of Oakville, Iowa; Lyman C. and Warren Selden, who also reside in Oakville; Gladys, the wife of Marshall Thomson, of Oakville; Bessie L., at home; and Norma E., who is deceased.

Mr. Williams is a republican in politics and has held most of the township offices. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Such in brief is the life history of W. B. Williams. In whatever relation of life we find him he is always the same honorable and honored gentleman, whose worth well merits the high regard which is uniformly given him.

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### GEORGE D. HARRISON.

George D. Harrison, who has resided in Louisa county fifty-six years and is known as one of the substantial citizens of the county, is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born December 19, 1829. He is a son of S. P. and Catherine (Fawkes) Harrison, both of whom were born in Delaware county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Harrison, Sr., moved to Ohio with his family about 1834 and located on a farm in Clark county where he built a log cabin in which the family lived several years. He and his wife both died on the family homestead in the Buckeye state. They were the parents of four children: George D.; Susan, deceased; Catherine, who is the wife of F. Walker and is living in Ohio; and G. L., of St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Harrison of this review received excellent advantages of education in Ohio where he attended the common schools and was also a college student. He continued at home until about twenty-seven years of age, engaging as a teacher several years and also for two years as civil engineer. In 1855, believing that conditions were more favorable west of the Mississippi river, he arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, and entered the mercantile business at Columbus City. He was successful in this vocation but after fifteen years sold out and began devoting his attention to the grain and live stock business, also being connected quite extensively with farming and cattle-feeding. He now owns four hundred and fifty acres of good land in Columbus City township, upon which he has made many improvements, greatly adding to its value, but is living practically retired, having for many years possessed a competency.

In 1859 Mr. Harrison was married to Miss Lou C. Ringer, who was born in Maryland, a daughter of Andrew P. and Catherine Ringer. The parents were both natives of Maryland and were among the early settlers of Louisa county where they continued during the remainder of their lives. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were three children: Harry L., who is married and lives in Columbus Junction in the summer time and in California in the winter; and Chester and Milton, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Harrison, the mother of these children, died September 10, 1900, and her body reposes in the cemetery at Columbus City. The death of his beloved companion was the heaviest blow Mr. Harrison has ever known, his main comfort now being his son and three grandchildren.

In politics he is an adherent of the democratic party. He formerly took an active interest in public affairs and served as a member of the city council and as a representative of Louisa county in the state legislature. A man of good judgment and actuated by progressive ideas, he has been instrumental in forwarding the permanent welfare of this section and also through the energy and business sagacity has accumulated a handsome fortune. He now enjoys the results of his labors amidst friends whom he has long known and who entertain for him the highest veneration and esteem.

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#### JAMES HAROFF.

A good farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres on sections 11, 12 and 13, Grand View township, is the property of James Haroff, and in its cultivation and further improvement his time is busily occupied, with the result that he is meeting with success in his efforts. One of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurred in Lake township, Muscatine county, on the 11th of February, 1868. His parents, David and Christina (Foster) Haroff, were born in Ohio, but were married in Iowa, and for a number of years resided on a farm in Muscatine county. After the retirement of the father from active life they took up their abode in Nichols, where he passed away on the 17th of September, 1898. The mother,

who is still living, continues to make her home in that city. In their family were four children: Ella, who married Martin Laughlin, residing near Winfield, Iowa; James, of this review; Ida, the wife of William Dickerson, of Grand View; and Etta S., the wife of John McClure, of Nichols.

When a lad James Haroff attended the district schools near his home, where he acquired his education, and, completing his studies, remained with his parents and engaged in the daily routine of the farm until he was twenty-three years of age, at which period of his life, being desirous of starting out in the world for himself, he left home and was engaged in farming on rented land for several years. Subsequently he purchased a small tract of forty acres, which he later sold, and then became the owner of his present farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty-two acres on sections 11, 12 and 13, Grand View township. Eighty acres of this farm are under a high state of cultivation, and the place, since coming into his possession and under his wise supervision, has yielded bountiful harvests which, from year to year, have enabled him to place himself in prosperous circumstances. He engages in stock-raising in addition to tilling the soil and is accounted one of the most enterprising and substantial agriculturists of this township.

Mr. Haroff was married, June 21, 1895, to Miss Elmira Bernard, a daughter of Charles and Mary (Schneider) Bernard, natives of Illinois and Germany respectively. They were married at Port Louisa, Iowa, and were farming people, engaging in that pursuit until the death of the father in June, 1910, since which time the mother has made her home with her daughter Mrs. Haroff. Their family consisted of eight children but only three are now living, the sisters of Mrs. Haroff being: Ella, the wife of Nicholas Yancy, of Point Roberts, Washington; and Millie, who married Clinton Cocklin, of Louisa county, Iowa. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Haroff has been blessed with one son, Earl David, who was born June 18, 1896, and is a high-school student.

The family attend the Evangelical church and politically Mr. Haroff is a democrat, although the honors and emoluments of office have never held any attraction for him. With him perseverance, diligence and integrity have constituted the guiding posts of life, bringing him to the honorable position which he now occupies in the opinion of his fellow citizens, among whom he has long lived and labored.

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#### OSCAR HALE.

Not many citizens of Iowa can claim to belong to the fifth generation of their family in this state, although in long settled parts of the east such a claim would not be considered unusual. Iowa belongs to the great west and within the recollection of persons now living a large part of the state was still occupied by the Indians. The advent of the white man gradually brought about a transformation and today Iowa ranks as one of the richest and most prosperous



commonwealths of the Union. A record of the Hale family appears elsewhere in this work, covering a period of more than seventy years in Iowa, in the course of which its members performed their duty not only in subduing the wilderness but in business and professional pursuits.

Oscar Hale, whose name stands at the head of this sketch, has for the past seventeen years been engaged in the practice of law at Wapello and is one of the best known attorneys of Louisa county. Born at Wapello, February 27, 1867, he is a son of John Hale, who was twice married, the maiden name of his first wife being Esther Palmer. She was the mother of two children, now living: Lydia, who married C. P. Lacey, of Wapello; and Lauren, who is now a resident of Longton, Kansas. The mother died in 1863 and Mr. Hale was married, in Des Moines county, Iowa, in 1866, to Miss Clara Rhodes. To this union six children were born, two of whom are now living, Oscar and Nellie, who assists her brother in his law office.

Mr. Hale of this review received his early education in the public schools of Louisa county and later attended Valparaiso Normal University at Valparaiso, Indiana. He began the study of law under his father and subsequently pursued the law course at the state university at Iowa City. He was admitted to the bar in 1893 in Jackson county, Kansas, where he had been engaged in teaching for five years. In 1894 he was admitted to practice in Iowa and has since maintained his office at Wapello, meeting with generous recognition as a successful advocate and a wise counselor. He has been identified with many important causes in this part of the state and his clientage includes many of the leading citizens and business firms of Wapello and Louisa county.

On February 20, 1899, Mr. Hale was married to Miss Carrie Sillick, a daughter of Asher and Fannie (Mallory) Sillick, of Jefferson township. They have one son, John, who was born August 5, 1900, and is now a pupil of the public schools. Mr. Hale is known as a man of the highest integrity and honor, who possesses in a marked degree the characteristics of justice, charity and kindness. To the best of his ability he has during his entire business career maintained the ideals of his profession. Since his boyhood his life has been an open book in Louisa county and his integrity and uprightness of purpose have never been questioned. It is fortunate for the publishers of this work that Mr. Hale became one of the associate editors of the History of Louisa county and it would have been difficult, indeed, to find a man better qualified for the responsibility. Fraternally he is a valued member of the Masonic order.

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#### LEWIS EDWARDS.

Lewis Edwards is an enterprising resident of Louisa county, whom the foreign lands have furnished to this district. He now owns a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Columbus City township, his entire time being devoted to its cultivation. He was born in Wales in April, 1848, a son of Row-

land and Catharine Edwards, who were likewise natives of Wales and there spent their entire lives. They had a family of eight children, seven of whom still survive.

Lewis Edwards had no educational advantages whatever, never attending school a day in his life. He has in later years, however, through experience and close observation, gained a fair knowledge, so that he is able to successfully carry on business affairs. When nineteen years of age, foreseeing no future for him in his native land and having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages and opportunities to be enjoyed in the new world, he decided to leave home and accordingly set sail for the United States. Upon reaching American shores, he made his way direct to Louisa county and here obtained work as a farm hand by the month. He was thus employed for several years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings, and eventually, in 1887, he had a sum of money sufficient to purchase the farm on which he has since resided. This farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and is located on section 3, Columbus City township. On this place he has made many improvements and his fields have been placed under a high state of cultivation, so that he annually gathers rich harvests. He carries on general farming to some extent, but makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock, and this branch of business adds not a little to his annual income.

Mr. Edwards chose as a companion and helpmate for the journey of life Miss Hannah Davis, who was likewise a native of Wales. She died February 15, 1901, her remains being interred in the Cambrian cemetery. Besides the husband, four children survive: James L. and Evan L., both at home; Catherine Ann, the wife of E. S. May, of Columbus Junction; and John L.

Mr. Edwards' study of political issues and questions of the day has led him to give stalwart support to the republican party, although he has never sought nor held office himself. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged. His success in life is notable. Coming to the new world without education or capital, he adapted himself to circumstances and to the customs of the people in this country and took advantage of the opportunities that presented, so that today he stands among the enterprising and prosperous farmers of his section of Louisa county.

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### JOHN J. ROBERTS.

John J. Roberts, who is serving as county assessor of Louisa county, an office which he has very acceptably filled for five years past, is a native of Columbia county, Wisconsin, born October 26, 1858. He comes of good Welsh stock and is a son of John H. and Jane (Williams) Roberts, both of whom were born in Wales. They emigrated to America in 1845 and took up their residence in Columbia county, Wisconsin. In 1864 Mr. Roberts arrived with his family in Iowa county, Iowa. He had previously worked at the stone mason's trade but in

Iowa county purchased sixty-four acres of land, which he cultivated until 1871, and then moved to Montgomery county, where he acquired one hundred and sixty acres. He continued upon this farm until his death, which occurred in February, 1887. The mother is now living and makes her home with the subject of this review. There were three children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts; Anna, who is deceased; John J., of this review; and Ellen, who married H. A. Davis, of Louisa county.

Mr. Roberts, whose name introduces this sketch, came to Iowa with his parents in early childhood and received advantages of a good common-school education. At the age of nineteen he secured a teacher's certificate in Montgomery county and taught for thirteen winters in district schools, assisting his father each summer. He acquired an excellent reputation as an instructor and on that account was able to secure a position as teacher in the high school at Columbus Junction, where he continued for four years. He then taught one year at Cotter and in 1893 took up his residence in that place. He has worked at the carpenter's trade also at various times and since 1906 has served as county assessor, a position which he ably filled, being well fitted by education and experience for the important responsibilities of the office.

In politics Mr. Roberts is a republican and has great faith in the ability of the party to conduct the nation through any difficulties internal or external that may arise. He has served as school director and is now secretary of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America and can claim many warm friends in those organizations. He was reared in the Christian faith and is a valued member of the Presbyterian church. Capable and conscientious in the performance of his duties, he has gained the confidence of the people of the county and is known as a loyal and trustworthy citizen, whose word is as good as his bond and whose record is a credit alike to himself and the county of his adoption.

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### JAMES E. GRAY.

James E. Gray, widely known throughout Columbus City township as a raiser and breeder of high grade stock, is one of Louisa county's native sons, his birth here occurring on the 21st of March, 1849. His parents, William and Sarah (Stronach) Gray, were natives of England and Maryland respectively, the former coming to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1840. Here he entered land from the government upon which he erected a log cabin, and at once set about its development and improvement. He and his wife made their home upon that farm until their deaths. Their family consisted of three children of whom one is now deceased, the others being: James E., of this review; and William H., a resident of Montana.

Reared a farm lad, James E. Gray acquired his education in the district schools and remained with his father, giving him the benefit of his assistance, until the latter's death. He then purchased the old homestead farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on section 3, Columbus City township, upon which he has continued to reside to the present time. This place, known as the Evergreen Farm, has become a highly improved property under his supervision, for he has erected upon it fine buildings and has equipped it with all of the modern conveniences and accessories of a model farm. He carries on general farming but gives the greater portion of his time to his live stock interests, being one of the best known and successful raisers and breeders in this locality. He makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, always keeping a number of fine specimens on hand for sale, and is also a breeder of Cheviott sheep and Poland China hogs. He also is a fancier of Scotch Terriers, being the owner of a fine kennel of dogs which he keeps for sale.

On the 22d of November, 1877, Mr. Gray was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Dawdy, who was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, on the 21st of November, 1857. Her parents, Alfred and Mary (Gunter) Dawdy, were both born in Kentucky but were married in Illinois. Taking up their abode in Henderson county, Illinois, they remained there until 1870, in which year they came to Iowa, residing in Louisa county three years. They then removed to Kansas, now making their home at Topeka. Of their family of seven children three are still living. Their daughter Jennie is a high school graduate and for several years was engaged in teaching school. By her marriage to Mr. Gray she has become the mother of three children, namely: Chester E., who was born May 16, 1881, is a graduate of the Iowa State Agricultural College and now makes his home in California; Ethel, who was born June 6, 1890, and in 1892 passed away; and Marian Edith, born December 22, 1893, now attending high school.

Mr. Gray is a republican in politics, and although he has never sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty, he has always been a stanch advocate of the cause of education, serving on the school board for a number of years and now filling the office of secretary thereof. He has spent his entire life within the borders of Louisa county and his interests have ever been identified with those of the community in which he made his home. Success has rewarded his efforts and it is well merited, for his has been a life of continuous activity, characterized by honorable methods and strict integrity.

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#### WAYNE ERWIN WHETSTINE.

Wayne Erwin Whetstine, editor of the Columbus Safeguard and for more than a year past postmaster of Columbus Junction, is a native of Wellman, Washington county, Iowa. He was born February 19, 1878, a son of R. S. and Elizabeth (Bolding) Whetstine. The father was born in Indiana, August 18, 1837, and the mother in Illinois, November 8, 1841. Mr. Whetstine, Sr.,

was one of the pioneer settlers of Washington county, Iowa, arriving there when a youth of sixteen, and he has ever since that time been a resident of Iowa. He served in Company I, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, at the time of the Civil war and is now almost retired from active labor. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Whetstine seven children were born: Edward, Earl, Otis, Eunice, Alva, Wayne Erwin and Bertha. Alva is engaged in farming in this county on a place northwest of Columbus Junction.

Matthias Whetstine, Sr., the great-grandfather of our subject on the paternal side, was born in one of the southern states. He emigrated to Iowa and located in Washington county where he died at the advanced age of one hundred and five years. His son, Matthias Whetstine, Jr., grandfather of our subject, served in the Civil war in the same company with his son, Enoch, a brother of R. S. Whetstine. He was a blacksmith by trade, a republican in politics and a Methodist as to religious belief. He married Emelia Lee, whose father was a brother of Colonel Lee, a well known pioneer circus man. She died in Washington county, Kansas, about twenty-two years ago, at the age of seventy-nine years, her husband passing away in the same county when he had reached his eighty-fifth year.

The grandfather on the maternal side was Wesley B. Bolding whose parents emigrated from England. He was born at Big Springs, Kentucky, August 9, 1819, and was married December 24, 1840, to Nancy Drake, who was born in Gibson county, Indiana, October 22, 1822. She removed with her parents to Coles county, Illinois, in her infancy and died at Coppock, Iowa, December 16, 1901, her body being buried in the Wayland (Iowa), cemetery. She was a Methodist and her husband was a Universalist, although his father was a Methodist minister. Wesley B. Bolding died at the residence of his son, Dr. W. R. Bolding, at Oakville, Iowa, in 1905, having arrived at the age of eighty-five years, seven months and twenty-eight days. Politically he was a republican. There were eleven children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Bolding, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth J. Whetstine, of Wellman, Iowa; William R., a physician of Burlington, Iowa; John L., who makes his home at Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Permelia Perry, a resident of Galena, Kansas; James M., who died in his thirty-second year; Daniel D., of Denver, Colorado; Charley W., who died in infancy; Mrs. Alice M. Stonebarger, of St. Michael, Nebraska; Erasmus M., who lives in Washington state; Mrs. Clara E. Watts, of Phoenix, Arizona; and Mrs. Sarah Eldora Kurtz, of Washington, Iowa.

Wayne Erwin Whetstine received a common school education and from the age of eleven years he has been identified with newspaper work. He began setting type in a newspaper office, and, being keenly alert and wide-awake in a calling for which he was well adapted, he developed special ability, so that at the age of sixteen he took editorial charge of the Kalona (Iowa) News. He was at that time the youngest newspaper editor in the United States. He was connected with a number of Iowa papers and on October 1, 1905, purchased the Columbus Safeguard, of which he has since had charge. The Safeguard is one of the oldest weekly newspapers in this part of the state, having been es-

tablished in 1870. It is a representative of the principles of the republican party and has been an efficient instrument in forwarding the interests of that organization. On February 10, 1911, Mr. Whetstine was appointed postmaster of Columbus Junction by President Taft and assumed the duties of his office on the 1st of April following.

Mr. Whetstine was married May 18, 1911, to Miss Lola F. Endsley, who was born in Kansas, a daughter of I. A. and Emma (Duncan) Endsley, both of whom are residents of Columbus Junction. Mrs. Whetstine has one brother, Willard Endsley. Mr. Whetstine is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Court of Honor and has many warm personal friends in those organizations. Although a young man, he occupies a position of growing responsibility and by his energy and good judgment has ably performed his part in promoting the best interests of the community.

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### CHARLEY F. BEIK.

Farming and stock-raising have always engaged the activities of Charley F. Beik, who is a native of Port Louisa township, his natal day being the 31 of April, 1865. He is a son of Jacob and Emma (Jackson) Beik, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. They were married in Iowa and began their domestic life upon a farm in Port Louisa township, in the operation of which the father engaged until his demise in 1900. The mother passed away in 1875. Six children were born of this union of whom our subject is the eldest. The others are: Molly, the wife of John Hardman, of Louisa county; Frank L., who is a resident of Port Louisa township; John, who also lives in this county; and two who died in infancy. Several years after the death of his first wife Mr. Beik was again married, his second wife being Miss Verda Handley, of Illinois, and unto them were also born six children: Emma, the wife of L. E. Downer, of Muscatine county; Kate, who married Henry Sweitzer, of Louisa county; Arthur, who is teaching in this county; Grace, the wife of George Webber, also of Louisa county; Herald, who is living in this county; and Paul, who is living with his mother on the old homestead.

Charley F. Beik remained a member of the paternal household until he had reached the age of twenty-five years, acquiring his education in the district schools. After laying aside his text-books he assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until 1880 when he began farming as a renter, which he continued for fifteen years. At the expiration of that period he and his brother Frank bought one hundred and forty-nine acres of land in partnership. They subsequently increased their holdings by the purchase of two hundred and twenty acres at one time, one hundred and fifty-two and eighty acres at other times, making the aggregate of their real-estate holdings six hundred and one acres. All but eighty acres of this is in Port Louisa township. It is well improved and



the greater portion of it in a high state of cultivation. The land is all held and operated in partnership, even the eighty acres which lies in Grand View township, their entire crop being used for the feeding of stock. They are both capable business men and successful agriculturists.

On the 21st of April, 1909, Mr. Beik was united in marriage to Miss Susan Zimmerman, who was born in Louisa county in 1879, and is a daughter of John and Mary Zimmerman. The parents removed to Iowa, locating in Grand View township, this county, in the early days. The father was a carpenter as well as mason and engaged in contracting and building until his death in 1901. The mother is still living and makes her home in Grand View. Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman: Charley, who is living at home; Emma, the wife of James Green, of Columbus City, Iowa; Susan, now Mrs. Beik; Ralph, who is living in the vicinity of Grand View; Dalas, of Grand View; Bert; George; Minnie, who was the wife of Celly Ross and died April 16, 1898; and Nina May, who died in infancy. Mr. Zimmerman had been married previously, and of this union was born one son, Carr, who continues to live at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Beik are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, his membership being in the Grand View lodge. Politically he is a republican. He is an energetic but unassuming man whose success can be justly attributed to his untiring industry, perseverance and unflinching determination to win.

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#### ROBERT C. RUSSELL.

A well known resident and business man of Oakville is Robert C. Russell, who was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 31st of July, 1851. His parents were David and Mary Ann (Smith) Russell, the father a native of Adams county, Kentucky, and the mother of Ohio, her birth having occurred on the 16th of February, 1813. They were married in Fulton county, Illinois, and two years afterward removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, settling on government land. Upon this Mr. Russell erected a log cabin with a clapboard roof and puncheon floor, while the chimney was constructed from stones, sticks and clay, and the door was opened with a latch-string. The family occupied this crude residence for twenty years, Mr. and Mrs. Russell continuing to reside on the homestead during the remainder of their days. His demise occurred on the 19th of January, 1892, and hers on the 22d of December of the same year. Unto them were born seven children: Elizabeth, who married F. Sharar, of Muscatine, Iowa; Louisa, deceased; William, a veteran of the Civil war, also deceased; Frances, the widow of H. Dixon, of Mediapolis; Ellen, the widow of James Cox; Robert C., our subject; and Cassie A., deceased.

The boyhood and youth of Robert C. Russell were spent amid the primitive environment characteristic of the rural districts of that period, his education being acquired in a log schoolhouse, with an earthen floor and rough, unfinished

slabs for seats. At the age of nineteen years he relieved his father of the care and responsibility of the old homestead, continuing to reside with his parents until their death. He subsequently purchased the farm, in the cultivation of which he engaged until 1902, when he disposed of same and bought a farm in Elliott township, Louisa county, Iowa. After operating this for three years he sold it and purchased a grocery store and meat market in Oakville, which he conducted for a similar period. He withdrew from commercial activities at the expiration of that time and now owns a sixty thousand dollar interest in the drainage and sewerage contract in district No. 1, Des Moines county.

Mr. Russell has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Mary Rogers, who passed away on the 5th of December, 1887, and was laid to rest in the Creighton cemetery. Four children were born of this union: Vinnie, who became the wife of A. Ferris, of Oakville; Frank G., who is in a drug store in Davenport; Bessie A., the wife of William McFadden, of Lone Tree, Iowa; and Mary Lou, who was born on the 23d of November, 1887, and died on the 2d of February, 1896. On the 26th of October, 1889, Mr. Russell was married to Miss Alice E. Rogers, a sister of his former wife, who was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 2d of February, 1862. Mrs. Russell is a daughter of George D. and Miranda (Topper) Rogers, the father a native of England and the mother of Pennsylvania. They are both living, the father at the venerable age of eighty-two and the mother at seventy-four, and make their home in Mediapolis, Iowa. Mrs. Russell, who is one of seven daughters, six still living, was a school teacher prior to her marriage. Two children have been born unto Mr. Russell and his second wife: Robert E., whose birth occurred on the 15th of March, 1891, and who is now attending high school; and Elwood Paul, who was born on the 24th of January, 1901.

Mr. Russell is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being identified with Mediapolis Lodge, No. 226, A. F. & A. M. Both he and his wife affiliate with the Presbyterian church of Oakville, in the work of which organization they take much interest, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He takes an active part in public affairs and has held a number of city and township offices. Mr. Russell is one of the substantial citizens of Oakville, where he owns a fine residence, the hospitality of which he and his wife graciously extend to their many friends.

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#### THOMAS B. CROSS.

There is no record which the American citizen holds in higher honor than that of the man whose strength of character, determination of purpose and indefatigable energy have enabled him to work his way upward from a humble position to one of affluence, and who throughout his business career has followed a straightforward, honorable course that neither seeks nor requires disguise. Such is the history of Thomas B. Cross who, when a little lad of but



eight years, began to earn his own living and has since been dependent upon his own resources.

Born in Crawford county, Ohio, on the 20th of October, 1847, he is a son of David and Nancy (Louthen) Cross. The father was a native of Delaware and the mother of Holmes county, Ohio, where they were married. That remained their home until the father's death, at which time the mother brought her family to Iowa, locating first in Allamakee county, where they spent one winter. They then went by boat down the Mississippi river to Muscatine county, where they made their home for one year, renting what was known as the Cy Townsley farm. The family remained together for a time, engaging in farming, but after about two years they became scattered, the mother making her home at different times with her various children until her demise, which occurred in Sheridan county, Missouri, when she had reached the age of sixty-six years. She was the mother of eight children, of whom only two now survive, D. W., of Fredonia, Iowa, and Thomas B. The others were: Rose Ann, who married William Slough and passed away in Page county, Iowa; William, a veteran of the Civil war, belonging to the Thirty-fifth Iowa Volunteers, whose death occurred in Muscatine county; John, a member of the First Iowa Cavalry, who died at Springfield, Missouri; Ellen, who first married Samuel Walker, who was killed in the Civil war, and later married Enoch Aurand, both now deceased; James, whose death occurred in Nebraska; and Finley, who passed away in Kansas City.

During the early life of Thomas B. Cross he attended the common school in the acquirement of an education but when only eight years of age was compelled to earn his own livelihood, owing to the straitened circumstances of the family after the death of his father. Thus he entered the business world at a time when other lads were yet attending school, and for sixteen years was employed as a farm hand. He then began business on his own account as a farmer, renting land for about seven years, after which he purchased forty acres in Page county, Iowa, upon which he resided for one year. He then sold that farm and bought eighty acres in Nebraska, which he operated for a similar period, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska, which remained in his possession for two years. He next removed to Hamilton county, that state, and invested in two hundred acres which he continued to operate for sixteen years. At the end of that time he sold his property and returned to Iowa, locating in Louisa county, where he became the owner of one hundred and forty-seven acres. There he resided for two years, when he sold out and bought eighty acres in Grand View township, which he farmed for one year, and after disposing of that property he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Grand View township, upon which he now makes his home. Since that time he has added more land until he is now the owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of finely improved property, all under a high state of cultivation. He has added improvements, from time to time, until his place is now provided with substantial buildings, modern machinery and all conveniences requisite for carrying on the work successfully. For several years he has made a spe-

cialty of raising and feeding stock, the excellent quality of which is recognized throughout the community. He is a good judge of stock so that he is able to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. Success has attended his efforts in both branches of his business and today he is ranked among the representative and prosperous agriculturists of the township.

On the 6th of September, 1888, Mr. Cross with united in marriage to Miss S. J. Foster, who was born in Louisa county, a daughter of Harrison and Sarah (Reynolds) Foster. The parents were both natives of Ohio, where they were married in January, 1850, immediately after which they came to Louisa county and here resided upon a rented farm for a year. They then bought land in Concord township, upon which they resided throughout their remaining days, and with the passing years accumulated a valuable estate of two hundred acres, all under a high state of cultivation. The father passed away in 1867 but the mother survived until the 23d of December, 1900. Their family consisted of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Mary E. Compton, of Raymond, Washington; Mrs. Frances M. Foster, of Wayne county, Illinois; Mrs. Fannie C. Bushong, of Fredonia, Iowa; Mrs. Cross; Henry H., of Creston, Iowa; Andrew J., operating the old homestead in Concord township; Solomon D., of Conesville, Iowa; and Mrs. Lydia E. Henderson, now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cross have been born five children, namely: Edna B., born on the 21st of August, 1886, in a sod house in Hamilton county, Nebraska, who has a high-school education and now makes her home with her parents; Ralph R., born February 12, 1891, also a high-school graduate; Alvin J., who was born October 4, 1892, and attended high school; Zena A., born July 8, 1894, also a graduate from high-school; and Sallie E., who passed away in infancy.

All of the members of the family attend the Church of God and are people of genuine personal worth, highly respected in the community in which they reside. In politics Mr. Cross gives his allegiance to the democracy but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty. The history of the career of Mr. Cross is indeed a most creditable one, for it is the record of a self-made man. On the strength of his own resources, through constant application of perseverance, coupled with hard work and careful management, he has been able to rise in the world from comparative penury and obscurity to a position of independence in the agricultural circles of Louisa county.

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### JOHN DOTSON DEIHL.

A representative of the third generation of the family in Louisa county, John Dotson Deihl, cashier of the Wapello State Savings Bank, has proved a worthy descendant of an honorable ancestry and is recognized as one of the thoroughly energetic and capable citizens of the county. He was born on the old home farm in Wapello township December 10, 1882, a son of George R. and Eva (Dotson) Deihl, record of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Deihl of this review attended the district school and later entered the Wapello high school from which he was graduated in 1899. He took a stenographic course and after entering upon his business career was fortunate in securing leave of absence which enabled him to carry his studies further under highly competent teachers in Drake University. He secured employment in various positions until 1901 when he entered the Wapello State Savings Bank in a clerical capacity and demonstrated his business qualities to such an extent that in 1906 he was promoted to the position of cashier and a year later was elected a member of the board of directors, both of which positions he is now filling. He has discharged his responsibilities with sagacity and circumspection and has thus won the confidence of the business men of the community as well as of private individuals. He uses good judgment in guarding the interests of stockholders and depositors and as he is thoroughly acquainted with the resources of Louisa county, his opinions as to loans are generally found to be correct. It is evident that he made no mistake in choosing his vocation.

On the 12th of October, 1905, Mr. Deihl was married to Miss Talma Bly Parsons, a daughter of Douglas D. and Jessie (Hook) Parsons. There were three children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Parsons: Pearl, who is the wife of Ralph Hunt, superintendent of schools of Louisa county; Talma, now Mrs. John Dotson Deihl; and Dean, who is now a student in school. Mr. and Mrs. Deihl have two sons: Douglas George, who was born July 18, 1906; and Albert Parsons, born July 7, 1908. Mrs. Deihl is a lineal descendant of John Nevill, who as a soldier in the Revolutionary war gained recognition from those higher in authority for his services at Yorktown.

In politics Mr. Deihl gives his support to the republican party. He is not connected with any religious denomination but his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has observed the advantages of education and is a stanch friend of the public schools which he regards as the bulwark of the nation. Since 1908 he has been a member of the school board and during the last two years has served as president of the board. He is not a man who seeks to shirk responsibility and his friends prophesy that in years to come he will gain recognition as a leader throughout a wide section in this part of the state

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### GEORGE WILBERT KERR.

George Wilbert Kerr, who is enjoying a marked degree of prosperity as a farmer and stock-raiser of Louisa county, comes of a hardy race of pioneers and was born in Henry county, Illinois, April 21, 1865, a son of Thomas Walker and Amanda (Henninger) Kerr, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio. The parents were married in 1859 and the father engaged in farming in Illinois. He died February 29, 1896, and his faithful wife passed away November 11, 1908. In the family were nine children, namely: Ella, who married F. O. Withrow, of Geneseo, Illinois; Amy, the wife of James

Burton, of Kalispel, Montana; George Wilbert; Lena, who married E. E. Withrow, of Los Angeles, California; Mina, who is the wife of Percy Davis, of Geneseo; James, who lives in Louisa county; Thomas and William, both of whom are deceased; and Harry Z., of Louisa county.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was one of the very early settlers of Henry county, Illinois, arriving in that part of the state when wild animals roamed at will over the prairies and the Indians were camped on the streams. His wife counted as many as thirty-five deer passing the door of their cabin in a single morning and the settlers were obliged to constantly watch their fields in order to prevent the deer and other wild animals from destroying the wheat.

Mr. Kerr of this review was reared under the favorable conditions of farm life and in his boyhood attended the district schools. He continued at the homestead until he was twenty-two years of age, when he bought fifty acres of land in Henry county, later acquiring forty acres additional. After five years he sold out and invested in eighty acres at Eldorado, Kansas, but remained in Geneseo for three years, being engaged in the real-estate business. He then bought eighty acres in Bureau county, Illinois, and also rented seven hundred and fifty acres, which he cultivated to good advantage, ultimately becoming the owner of the old homestead of eighty acres at Geneseo, Illinois. He made various investments, among which may be named the purchase of two hundred acres of good land in Louisa county, Iowa, about 1908. In 1911 he traded all his properties in Illinois for one hundred and eighty-four acres in Louisa county and is now the owner of three hundred and eighty-four acres in this county, all of which is in Columbus City township. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, and as he is prepared to do so upon an extensive scale there is no doubt that his efforts will meet with abundant reward.

On the 18th of July, 1889, Mr. Kerr was married at Geneseo, Illinois, to Miss Fannie E. Farber, a daughter of Paul and Anna (Ulan) Farber, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania. They are both now deceased. The father arrived in Illinois in 1830 and entered land from the government upon the site now covered by the town of Hillsdale in Rock Island county. This was in the early days of the state, when there were few settlers and the country was largely unoccupied. He often told of having gathered the eggs of wild ducks and geese by the basketful. At one time he drove an ox team to the mill at Rock Island and on the return trip the team became frightened and ran away and the entire wagonload of grist was lost in the river. Later he moved with his family to Henry county. There were two children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Farber: Fannie E., now Mrs. George W. Kerr; and Catharine, who married Warren Sykes, of Stoneville, South Dakota. Mr. Farber was twice married, his first wife being Mary Ann Hill, a daughter of James Hill, for whom Hillsdale, Illinois, was named. By that union there were five children: James W., of Mulvane, Kansas; William H. and Edward, of Geneseo, Illinois; Jane, the wife of Robert Clausen, of Alpha, Illinois; and Sheldon, of Stoneville, South Dakota.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kerr were born nine children: Charles Wilbert, who was born July 6, 1890; Grace Gertrude, born December 3, 1891; Paul W., born July 29, 1893; Bernice Amanda, born February 6, 1898; F. Everett, born February 28, 1900; Roy R., who was born February 28, 1902, and died February 29 of the same year; Irma, who was born May 9, 1904, and died the same day; Willis, born March 16, 1906; and George Samuel, born June 19, 1908.

Mr. Kerr inherited from sturdy ancestry many worthy traits of character that have assisted him materially in his life work. He has witnessed many great advancements in agriculture and stock-raising during the past twenty-five or thirty years and as he has through life been intelligent and progressive in his methods, he is now fully abreast of the times in all details connected with his work. He is the fortunate owner of one of the valuable farms of Louisa county, which is known as one of the most favorable agricultural regions of the state. Politically he is a supporter of the republican party and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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### JOHN W. ADAMSON.

One of the thoroughly successful farmers of Louisa county is John W. Adamson, who owns a beautiful place in Columbus City township, upon which he has made many improvements so that it is today one of the most attractive farms in that part of the county. He owes his enviable position to his industry which has always been under the safe direction of sound judgment. He is a native son of Iowa, born in Henry county, May 12, 1870, his parents being W. S. and Rebecca A. Adamson, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father settled on a farm in Iowa, making it his home until his death, which occurred February 19, 1908. The mother is still living and resides at Columbus Junction. In their family were four children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being: Annie, who married L. E. Bush, of Packwood, Iowa; Grant H., of Ottumwa; and John W.

In the common schools the subject of this review gained the rudiments of an education which he has greatly widened by contact with the world and by reading and study. As a boy he showed special interest in the various details pertaining to farming and at maturity he associated with his brother in renting three hundred and sixty acres of land which he cultivated for one year. He then went to Hancock county where he spent one year, at the end of which time he returned to the old homestead and later purchased ninety acres adjoining, which he cultivated to good advantage. In 1902 he sold his place and purchased one hundred and thirty eight acres in Columbus City township, to which he made additions as opportunity presented until he is now the owner of three hundred and thirty acres. He has made many valuable improvements, including a handsome two-story house, which is provided with modern comforts and conveniences. The fences on the farm indicate thoughtful attention on the part of the owner and he has also provided himself with the best modern machinery, thus facilitating the work and pro-





J. W. ADAMSON AND FAMILY





W. S. ADAMSON HOMESTEAD





ducing more satisfactory results. He makes a specialty of raising Duroc Jersey hogs, being one of the most successful men in this line in Columbus City township. He is a man of responsibility and high character and has set an example worthy of imitation by old and young.

On September 5, 1895, Mr. Adamson was married to Miss Rosa Rahmiller, a daughter of Fred and Louisa (Irving) Rahmiller, record of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Adamson are the parents of six children, namely: Edith, who was born July 28, 1896, and is at home; Vern, who was born October 3, 1897, and resides at home; Walter, who was born December 18, 1898, and died December 23, 1909; Flossie, born September 17, 1900; Pearl, born September 5, 1902; and Lela, born December 22, 1905.

Mr. Adamson has never trusted to luck or accident to work out his financial problems but has bravely set his shoulder to the wheel and by steadfastly keeping in view the object for which he was striving has generally succeeded in the accomplishment of his undertakings. He has been ably seconded by his wife who has proven an admirable counselor and as manager of the household affairs is scarcely excelled in the county. In politics Mr. Adamson favors the republican party but not as a seeker for office as his time is well employed in the business pertaining to his farm. He ranks among the competent and successful men of the county—a man for whom the future apparently holds out still greater achievements than he has yet accomplished.

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### WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS.

William J. Williams, whose efforts along agricultural and stock-raising lines are meeting with substantial success, is one of Iowa's foreign born citizens, his birth occurring in Wales in 1849. His parents, William and Jane (Jones) Williams, were also born in that country and there spent their entire lives. William J. Williams, their only child, spent his early life in the land of his nativity, where he was reared to farm work and also received his education, and when twenty years of age came alone to America, determining to seek his fortune in the new country where opportunities for advancement along business lines were greater than could be had in the older country. Upon landing in the United States he made his way to Louisa county, and for a period of ten years was engaged as a farm hand, the first six years being spent in this county and last two in California. Upon returning to Iowa he invested the money, which he had been able to accumulate by unflinching industry and strict economy in eighty acres of land in Montgomery county, upon which he made his home for eight years. At the end of that time he sold that property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which he operated seven years, when he disposed of that farm and removed to Oklahoma and invested in farm land. Seven years he made his home in that state, then returned to Louisa county and has since resided upon a farm of one hundred and forty acres on section 33, Columbus

city township. He carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising hogs, his success in both branches being most substantial and gratifying. He has greatly improved his land, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation through the use of modern machinery and the employment of progressive methods in tilling the soil and caring for the crops. His stock is of a good grade, insuring ready sale and good prices on the market. He is recognized as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of the township.

In December, 1877, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Ann Williams, a daughter of Richard and Jane Williams, who were also natives of Wales and came to America at an early day. They were the parents of eleven children and both have now passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William J. Williams have been born six children, namely: John R., of Columbus City township; Roland, Elmira J., Mary E. and Hattie E., all at home; and David, now deceased. On the 9th of November, 1908, the wife and mother passed away, her remains being laid to rest in the Cammery cemetery. She was a lady of many excellent traits of heart and mind and with her husband held membership in the Congregational church.

Mr. Williams gives his political support to the republican party but has never sought nor desired public office for himself. He prefers rather to concentrate his attention upon the conduct of his private business interests and in this has been successful. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek his fortune in the new world, for here he found the opportunities for advancement and in their utilization has become an independent business man.

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#### WILLIAM DEAN.

William Dean, a well known and prosperous farmer and stockman of Louisa county, is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Columbus City and Union townships. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 27th of November, 1875, his parents being S. A. and Mary (Powell) Dean, both of whom were natives of Indiana. They removed to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1865, and there the mother passed away in 1882. S. A. Dean subsequently took up his abode in Monmouth, Illinois, where he resided for three years. At the present time he makes his home near Des Moines. Unto him and his wife were born eight children, as follows: Jennie, who is the wife of George Baumgardner and makes her home in Coffey county, Kansas; Sadie, who is also married and resides in Kansas; Loie, the wife of Frank Mackey, of Peoria, Illinois; William, of this review; and four who are deceased.

William Dean obtained his education in the common schools and when nineteen years of age began earning his own livelihood as a farm hand, being thus employed for six years. On the expiration of that period he rented a farm in Mercer county, Illinois, devoting his attention to its operation for four years. Subsequently he purchased a tract of one hundred and thirty-two acres in that

county, residing thereon for five years. At the end of that time he traded the property for a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Louisa county, Iowa, part of which lies in Columbus City township and the remainder in Union township. He has brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and annually gathers bounteous crops which find a ready sale on the market. Mr. Dean also makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and is a breeder of Percheron horses, having a fine stable for breeding purposes.

Mr. Dean has been twice married. In 1897 he wedded Miss Jennie Johnson, a native of Rock Island, Illinois, by whom he had one child, Charles C. The wife and mother passed away in April, 1898, and May 29, 1900 Mr. Dean was again married, his second union being with Miss Daisy Fender, a native of Iowa and a daughter of J. O. and Nancy (Baker) Fender, who are residents of Mercer county, Illinois. Mrs. Dean was one of a family of six children and by her marriage has become the mother of four, namely: Elza F., Jennie M., Ralph E. and Opal L.

In politics Mr. Dean is a stanch republican but the honors and emoluments of office possess no attraction for him. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 305 at Columbus Junction, Iowa. Both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of the Baptist church, exemplifying its teachings in their daily lives. They are people of the highest respectability, enjoying in large measure the friendship of those with whom they have been brought in contact.

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#### A. F. PINE.

Iowa draws its wealth from the soil. The boundless prairies of this state offer excellent opportunities to the agriculturist, and the farmer who resolutely tills his fields and carefully cultivates his crops may in the course of time attain enviable success. Realizing these facts and exercising industry, economy and perseverance, Mr. Pine has won a place among the substantial citizens of his community, being now the owner of a well improved tract of land comprising two hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 7, Columbus City township. His birth occurred in Virginia on the 13th of November, 1861, his parents being Floyd and Virginia (Kelley) Pine, who spent their entire lives in the Old Dominion. Unto them were born six children, five of whom yet survive.

A. F. Pine was left an orphan when a little lad of six and was therefore thrown upon his own resources at a very early age. His education was acquired in the common schools. In 1879, when a youth of eighteen, he came to Louisa county, Iowa, and began working as a farm hand, being thus employed for four years. In 1883 he purchased forty acres of land in Union township, residing on that tract for ten years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the property and bought another farm of one hundred and twelve acres in the same township, making his home thereon for seven years. At the end of that time

he sold the place and purchased another tract of one hundred and ninety acres in Union township, operating the farm for seven years before he disposed of it. Subsequently he owned and resided on a tract of two hundred and ten acres in Oakland township for one year and then purchased a farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres on section 7, Columbus City township, which he has since brought under a high state of cultivation. In connection with the tilling of the soil he also devotes considerable attention to the raising of hogs and both branches of his business have been attended with success.

In 1886 Mr. Pine was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Skipton, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Devore) Skipton, who were born in Ohio and Virginia respectively and came to Iowa at an early day. Mr. Skipton is survived by his widow, who still makes her home in Louisa county. Our subject and his wife have twelve children, as follows: Ethel G., the wife of Alfred Schibilion, of this county; Ernest A., who is at home; Gertrude M., the wife of Harry E. Spaethe, of Eldon, Iowa; Floyd J.; Walter L.; Herbert H.; Virginia J.; William T.; Dollie Dimple; Helen E.; Ralph H.; and Halley R.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Pine has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He has served as a school director and is at present a street commissioner at Columbus City. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America at Columbus Junction. He is one of the active and progressive farmers of Columbus City township, a man of good business capacity and enterprise and of unquestioned business integrity, enjoying in an unusual degree the confidence and good will of the community.

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### BENJAMIN F. KNOTT.

Benjamin F. Knott, who is closely identified with the agricultural interests of Louisa county, and on account of his genial nature is well thought of by the entire community, was born in this county October 20, 1848. He is a son of Peter and Eliza (Kelly) Knott, the former of whom was born in New Jersey and the latter in Ohio. Mr. Knott, Sr., came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1845 but soon returned to Ohio, where he continued for three years, at the end of which time he again took up his residence in Louisa county, purchasing eighty acres of land near Letts. He was successful as a farmer and became the owner of one hundred and twenty-six acres of good land. He passed his latter years at Vanwert, Iowa, where he died May 12, 1901, having then arrived at the age of seventy-seven. There were twelve children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Knott, six of whom survive: Benjamin F., of this review; Mary, who married William Highsmith and lives at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Edward, who is engaged in farming in Louisa county; Charles, who makes his home at Holton, Kansas; Oliver, also of Louisa county; and John, who resides in the state of Washington.

Mr. Knott of this review possessed advantages of education in the district schools and as he grew to manhood assisted his father upon the home farm. At the age of twenty-two he began farming on his own account and a few years later went to Kansas, taking up a government land claim in that state in 1874. In 1875 he returned to Louisa county and rented eighty acres of his father, which he cultivated for five years. He then rented one hundred acres in another part of the county and continued renting various tracts of land until he acquired sufficient money to purchase sixty-six acres on his own account, upon which he established his homestead. He subsequently bought forty-six acres. He makes a specialty of raising corn and hogs and, as he is an industrious man of good judgment as a farmer, is meeting with merited success.

On the 23d of February, 1876, Mr. Knott was married to Miss Emma Bennington, and to this union four children were born: Lena, who is the wife of Roy McNemar, of Waukon, Iowa; Charles, living in Muscatine; Elmer, who makes his home at Omaha, Nebraska; and Myrtle, the wife of Orlando Wilcox, of Columbus Junction. Mr. Knott was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died March 13, 1909. She was a woman of many estimable qualities that endeared her to all with whom she associated.

On the 18th of July, 1911, Mr. Knott married Mrs. Catherine M. (Gipple) Sutherland, the widow of Elihu Sutherland, by whom she had five children, namely: Lee W., a resident of Denver, Colorado; John S., of Oklahoma; Naomi, the wife of Charles Smith, of Greeley Center, Nebraska; Carl, of Denver, Colorado; and Mary Margaret, who died at the age of twelve years.

In politics he gives his support to the democratic party and, although he is not a politician, he has served to the satisfaction of the people in various township offices. As a native of Iowa he is deeply interested in everything that concerns the state, especially in matters pertaining to Louisa county. By a strictly upright course he has won the confidence of his fellowmen and always takes just pride in doing what he can to add to the general good.

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#### C. R. WALKER.

Varied interests claim the attention of C. R. Walker, who is one of the extensive land owners of Louisa county and also president of the Oakville State Savings Bank. He is a son of the late F. A. and Martha C. (Blake) Walker and was born in Des Moines county, Iowa, on the 10th of December, 1865. Both parents were natives of Vermont, from which state the father came to Iowa, locating in Burlington in 1852, but the mother did not come west until later. The former passed away in 1897, but the latter, who is now seventy-seven years of age, makes her home in Mediapolis. Unto them were born three sons, of whom our subject is the youngest, the other two being as follows: O. H. and J. G., both residents of Des Moines county.

After the completion of his preliminary education, in the acquirement of which he attended the public-schools of Des Moines county, C. R. Walker pursued a collegiate course, receiving his degree. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits in his native county until 1905, when he removed to Oakville. Upon his arrival here he purchased eight hundred acres of land on sections 23 and 24, Elliott township, in addition to which he also owns a half section in Minnesota. Mr. Walker is interested in various local enterprises, among them being the Oakville State Savings Bank, in which institution he owns a large portion of the stock.

Mr. Walker was married in 1890 to Miss Mary Jane Creighton, a native of Elliott, Louisa county, and a daughter of J. H. and Sarah E. Creighton. They have two daughters: Yeteve, who was born on the 16th of June, 1894, and is now attending high school; and Martha E., whose birth occurred on the 23d of February, 1900.

Fraternally Mr. Walker is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being affiliated with Oakville Lodge, No. 139, in which organization he has held all of the chairs, and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church and she is also identified with Rebekah Lodge, No. 525, of Oakville, in which she has filled all of the offices. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he is now serving as an alderman in Oakville. Mr. Walker is an enterprising business man and progressive citizen who always indorses every movement which he feels would tend to advance the moral, intellectual or financial welfare of the community.

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#### JOHN T. MCCHESENEY.

For the past ten years John T. McChesney has been a resident of Wapello where he is enjoying at ease the results of many years of well directed effort. He was born at New Boston, Mercer county, Illinois, December 18, 1842, a son of J. T. S. and Rebecca (Clark) McChesney, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ireland. The father learned the cooper's trade but later engaged in farming in Illinois. He settled with his family in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1860 and became the owner of one thousand acres of land. He died in December, 1869. His wife continued to live upon the old home place for many years but was called away in 1908. In their family were five children: John T., of this review; Nathan C., who is now living in the state of Washington; Ruth, who married David Stephens, of Louisa county; Margaret J., the wife of Dr. W. W. Nye, of Kansas; and J. S., of Wapello.

John T. McChesney received his early education in the district schools and assisted in work upon the home farm until he was twenty years of age, when he began to farm upon the home place on his own account. After a year as an independent farmer he yielded to an irresistible desire to travel and went to Cali-



fornia, where he remained for eighteen months. He then returned home and established himself upon the old homestead where he remained until 1901, applying himself so successfully that he became the owner of twelve or thirteen hundred acres of good land. Ten years ago he purchased a large lot in Wapello upon which he erected a substantial home of two stories. Here he and his wife have since lived. He has sold all his land except three hundred and twenty acres. He has proved a valuable addition to the community and is always willing to perform his part in the promotion of the highest interests of those with whom he is associated.

On the 16th of August, 1863, Mr. McChesney was married to Miss Anna Collins, a daughter of John and Mary Ann Collins. The parents were both born in Ireland and spent their entire lives on the Emerald isle. They died when their daughter Anna was quite young. She had one brother, Thomas, who is deceased, and a sister, Emma, who married Edward McCormick, of New York city, and is also deceased.

Mr. McChesney has ever since he arrived at the age of twenty-one years been a supporter of the democratic party. He has never sought political honors but served very acceptably for fifteen years as township trustee while living on the farm and also as director and treasurer of the school board. His life is a practical illustration of the results of energy and perseverance when they are based upon good judgment. He has been honorable and upright in his dealings and therefore is deeply respected wherever he is known.

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### J. JAY STAPP.

The presence of young men in positions of importance calling for the exercise of sound judgment is one of the notable features of modern life and in no business is it more readily to be observed than in that of farming. Although he is only twenty-four years of age J. Jay Stapp, of Louisa county, is now in charge of a large farm and is also rapidly coming into prominence as a breeder of fine stock. He possessed rare opportunities of home and school training and as a result is making a success of his vocation.

He was born in Louisa county January 20, 1887, a son of J. J. and Flora (Ogier) Stapp, both of whom were natives of this county. In their family were six children, namely: H. Roy, who is living at Toledo, Ohio; Elsie, who is the wife of Frank B. Letts, of Clarendon, Texas; Nancy, who married H. R. Owens, of Longmont, Colorado; J. Jay; and Mona and Mary, both of whom are at home.

J. Jay Stapp was reared upon the parental homestead and attended the district schools, later preparing for college at high school. He then matriculated at the State Agricultural College of Ames, Iowa, where he continued for two and one-half years. After leaving college he received an appointment as government stock inspector and spent six months in New Mexico and Arizona, discharging his duties in such a way as to meet the approval of the officials at Washington.



Returning to his old home in Louisa county, he assumed charge of three hundred and sixty acres of land owned by his father. He is thoroughly up-to-date in his work and his efforts are meeting with gratifying results. He engages in general farming and also feeds stock upon an extensive scale for the market, making a specialty of pure bred shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Stapp was married August 23, 1911, to Margaret Mary Donovan, of Longwood, Colorado. In politics he supports the democratic party, believing that that organization is best adapted to direct the ship of state, and in religious belief he adheres to the Reformed Lutheran faith. He is also a member of the Masonic order and the Elks. He has made it a principle of his life to perform to the very best of his ability whatever he undertakes to do, and spares no time or labor in becoming thoroughly acquainted with the improved methods pertaining to his calling. It is safe to prophesy for him increasing usefulness and honor in a business for which he seems remarkably well adapted.

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### M. J. McCORMICK.

Prominent among the younger generation of business men in Grand View township is M. J. McCormick who, although he has not yet attained the quarter of a century mark, is serving as assistant cashier of the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts and as treasurer of the village of Letts. He was born at Columbus Junction, Iowa, in December, 1887, a son of William M. and Elizabeth (Runer) McCormick. His parents were natives of Harrison county, Ohio, and Washington county, Iowa, respectively, but they were united in marriage in Columbus City. The father, who had been employed as a clerk in a general merchandise store for five years previous to his marriage, later became identified with the mercantile business on his own account, establishing a general store in Columbus Junction. After conducting that enterprise for five years he sold it and came to Letts, where he assumed the management of the Cooperative Store until the organization of the Citizens Savings Bank in 1894. In that year he was elected cashier of that institution, to which office he was later succeeded by his son E. R. McCormick. His connection with the bank continued until his demise, which occurred in October, 1905. His wife still survives, however, and at the age of fifty-two years makes her home in Letts. Their family consists of two sons, E. R. and M. J., both of whom are identified with the bank of which their father was a valued factor for so many years.

At the usual age M. J. McCormick entered the public schools, passing through consecutive grades until his graduation from high school in due course of time. He was but fifteen years of age when he took his initial step in business life becoming at that time clerk in the Citizens Savings Bank of Letts. He was thus employed until 1909, when he was promoted to the position of assistant cashier, having barely attained his majority. He has ever since been iden-

tified with the institution in that capacity and is proving a most popular official, being prompt, faithful and efficient in the conduct of his work.

Mr. McCormick was married on the 24th of December, 1910, to Miss Edna H. Baker, who was born at Nichols, Iowa, a daughter of W. S. and Emma (Smith) Baker, who were born in New York but were married in Muscatine county, Iowa. The father operated a general mercantile business at Nichols until the organization of the Nichols Bank in 1899, when he was appointed cashier of that enterprise, thus remaining until his retirement in 1909. In that year he removed to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he yet makes his home, having reached the age of fifty-five years. His first wife passed away in 1905, and in 1910 he was again married. Unto his first union were born three children as follows: Earl S., of Wichita, Kansas; Bessie M., the wife of Dr. T. L. Eland, of Letts; and Edna H., the wife of our subject. The latter is a high school graduate and also had the benefit of a course in music at the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois.

Mr. McCormick belongs to the Masonic order, holding membership in Triangular Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Letts, in Composite Chapter, R. A. M., at Columbus Junction, and De Molay Commandery of Knights Templar at Muscatine, Iowa. He likewise belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Muscatine, Iowa. In politics he is a republican but has never sought nor desired office, although his fellow citizens have evidenced their trust and confidence in him by electing him to the office of city treasurer. He is proving a most capable incumbent, bringing to bear in the discharge of his duties the same qualities which he manifests in his business capacity. To few of his age have been intrusted the responsibilities which now devolve upon him in both of these important connections. Youthful ambition is just unfolding to him the story of what may be accomplished, and already, in this, the formative period of his career, he is exhibiting qualities which can have none other than successful accomplishment.

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### B. F. WOODRUFF.

B. F. Woodruff, an enterprising and representative agriculturist of Marshall township, devotes his attention to that branch of activity which George Washington designated as "the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred on the 14th of October, 1858. His parents were David and Mary Ann (Turner) Woodruff, both natives of Ohio. The father is still living on the old homestead farm in this county, but the mother was called to her final rest on the 8th of January, 1900. Unto them were born ten children, as follows: Charles A., who is a resident of Columbus Junction, Iowa; B. F., of this review; Jennie, Emma and Jemima, all of whom are deceased; Alice, who is the wife of Leon Daily and resides on the home place; Nellie, the

wife of William Dunham, of Fredonia, Kansas, and Chalmers, Effie and Josie, all deceased.

B. F. Woodruff has always remained on the home farm and, until the time of his marriage, operated land which he rented from his father. Subsequently he bought eighty acres of the home place and, as his financial resources increased, owing to his untiring industry and capable management, he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until he now owns two hundred and sixty-four acres of land. Eighty acres thereof is in section 15, Columbus City township, while the remainder is in section 22, Marshall township. The many substantial improvements on the property, including a handsome two-story residence, stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In connection with general farming he has also given considerable attention to the raising of stock, finding this branch of his business a gratifying source of remuneration.

On the 19th of October, 1882, Mr. Woodruff was united in marriage to Miss Maud Turner, a daughter of William and Margaret (Ewing) Turner, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. The father passed away on the 1st of April, 1908, but the mother still survives and makes her home at Vinton, Iowa. They had twelve children, namely: one who died in infancy; Maud, now Mrs. Woodruff; Willianna, the wife of Perry Kerns, of Vinton, Iowa; Emeline, who is the wife of William Dawes, and resides in Laporte, Iowa; Charles, who is deceased; Maggie, the deceased wife of John Adye, of Louisa county; Cora, who has passed away; Hugh, living in Anamosa, Iowa; Hattie, the wife of Fred Baldridge, of South Dakota; Clifford, deceased; Clellan, who is a resident of Vinton, Iowa; and Alma, who is deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff have been born five children: Stella, who is now the wife of James Bennett, of Wapello; Arthur, at home; Nellie and Ralph, both of whom have passed away; and Mary, whose birth occurred on the 10th of June, 1891.

Mr. Woodruff is a republican in politics and a Baptist in religious faith. In the county where his entire life has been spent he enjoys an enviable reputation as a substantial agriculturist and esteemed citizen.

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#### HENRY H. SCHWEITZER.

A well known merchant of Grand View, who is also a member of the town council, is Henry H. Schweitzer, who was born in this township on the 14th of September, 1872. He is a son of J. H. and Mary (Phifer) Schweitzer, the father a native of St. Louis and the mother of New Jersey, but they were married in Louisa county. Here Mr. Schweitzer, who is a cooper, followed his trade for fifteen years. At the end of that period he removed to a farm which he cultivated for ten years and then joined his son, William E., who was engaged in the general merchandise business in Grand View. They had been associated together for four years when the store was destroyed by fire and the father has since been living retired in Grand View. Of the union of Mr.

and Mrs. J. H. Schweitzer there were born nine children, as follows: William E., who is in business in Grand View; Henry H.; George E., who is engaged in merchandising in Oakville; Del. A., an attorney of Los Angeles, California; Charley, who is in business with his brother in Oakville; Albert, who is a resident of Grand View; Vinnie, who passed away at the age of thirteen years; and Oscar and Daisy, both of whom are still at home.

Henry H. Schweitzer attended the common schools of this county during his boyhood and early youth, during which time he was also assisting his father with the work of the homestead. When he attained his majority he felt he was ably qualified to begin farming for himself and for seven years thereafter he was identified with that vocation. At the expiration of that period he became associated with his brothers, William E., George E. and Charley, in the mercantile business. They are now conducting two stores: the one at Oakville is a grocery and meat market and in the one at Grand View they carry a full line of general merchandise. Enterprising business men with progressive ideas, they have succeeded in building up a very nice business in both towns. Pleasant and accommodating they have the faculty not only of winning patrons but what is fully as essential of holding them as well. In addition to their stock at Grand View they also own the building in which they are doing business.

The 21st of November, 1900, was the wedding day of Mr. Schweitzer and Miss Katie Beik, who was born in Louisa county on the 18th of July, 1880. Mrs. Schweitzer is a daughter of Jacob and Alurdo (Hanley) Beik, who were among the early settlers of this county. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer have been born four children, three of whom are surviving, the second having died in infancy. The others are: Marie, who was born on the 21st of April, 1904; Jacob, who was born on the 1st of August, 1906; and Erma, whose birth occurred on the 8th of April, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer are members of the Evangelical church and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in Grand View Lodge, No. 724, I. O. O. F. Ever since attaining his majority he has cast his ballot with the republican party, but he has never prominently participated in municipal affairs, although he is now representing his ward in the town council. Mr. Schweitzer is a man of laudable ambition and determination, who is gradually and steadily advancing in the commercial circles of Louisa county.

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#### WILLIAM E. SCHWEITZER.

During the entire period of his business career William E. Schweitzer has been identified with the mercantile circles of Grand View. His birth occurred in the village where he is now residing on the 26th of August, 1871, his parents being J. H. and Mary (Phifer) Schweitzer, who are old residents of this county.

Having spent a large portion of his boyhood and youth on a farm, when he attained his majority and was ready to start out for himself William E. Schweitzer decided to adopt that vocation for which he felt he was at that period best adapted, so for five years thereafter he engaged in agricultural pursuits. At the expiration of that period he withdrew from farming and going to Grand View engaged in the general merchandise business. The following year his father joined him and they continued together for five years, at the end of which time their store was destroyed by fire. The father then retired but the son continued in business and in 1906 three of his brothers went into partnership with him. They then decided to extend their activities, so established a store at Oakville, and have ever since been conducting this in addition to their Grand View store. Their stock consists of a full line of general merchandise, in connection with which they operate a meat market in both places. They have met with success in their undertaking and now own fourteen acres of land adjoining the town site of Oakville, besides which each has a fine residence.

On the 19th of May, 1909, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schweitzer and Miss Edna Williams, who was born in Muscatine, Iowa, on the 15th of December, 1875. Mrs. Schweitzer is a daughter of J. J. and Nancy (Webster) Williams, the mother a native of Ohio. Mr. Williams was for many years engaged in the monument business in Muscatine but withdrew from this and removed to a farm where he continues to reside. In connection with the tilling of his fields he is breeding and raising thoroughbred cattle and hogs, and he is also quite an extensive feeder. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of four children, as follows: Walter W., who is a missionary in China; Edna, now Mrs. Schweitzer; one who died in infancy; and H. R., who is a resident of Grand View township where he is engaged in farming. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer has been born one son, Paul William, whose birth occurred on the 29th of June, 1910.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a republican. Although he has never been an office seeker Mr. Schweitzer always fulfills his duty as he sees it in civic matters and has served on the town council. Enterprising and industrious, as well as trustworthy and reliable, Mr. Schweitzer and his brothers have built up a nice business and are rated among the prosperous citizens of the township.

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#### HUGH P. BROWN.

Hugh P. Brown, whose well directed efforts and earnest labor in past years now make it possible for him to live in retirement, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil, was for a long period actively and successfully identified with agricultural pursuits in Iowa. He was born in Union county, Indiana, on the 15th of January, 1835, a son of Mathew and Julia (Brumage) Brown, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia. They

were of German and English extraction respectively and were married in Indiana in 1827, that state remaining their home for a number of years. Both are now deceased, the father's death occurring in 1844 and the mother passing away in 1893. In their family were seven children but only four now survive: Hugh P., of this review; N. J., a resident of Dallas county, Iowa; Thomas M., a retired farmer of Letts; and Emily, the widow of Sidney Davis, of North Bend, Wisconsin.

Spending the period of his early life on his father's farm, the educational advantages of Hugh P. Brown were limited to those offered by the district schools of his native state, but by subsequent reading, experience and observation he has since greatly extended his general knowledge. He had attained the age of sixteen years when the desire to enter the business world on his own account caused him to leave the parental roof and he took up his abode on rented land, in the operation of which he was engaged for several years. He then became an independent farmer through the purchase of forty acres in Louisa county, which remained his home for a short time, after which he sold that tract and invested in another in Ringgold and Decatur counties, consisting of four hundred acres. This also remained in his possession but a brief period and at its sale brought him four thousand dollars. His next venture was the purchase of a sawmill in Muscatine county, and in its conduct he was successfully engaged for nine years, after which, in 1866, he sold his machinery and bought a ferry on the Cedar river. He operated the same for fifteen years, or until just prior to the building of the bridge at that point, when he traded it for a tract of four hundred and seventy-six acres of good land in Muscatine county. This he farmed for nine years or until 1894, when he disposed of it and purchased one hundred and seventy acres, also located in Muscatine county. This remained his home for only two years when he removed to Letts, his many years of close application and unfaltering industry in the management of his various affairs making it possible for him to withdraw from active life. He has not severed his connection entirely with the business world, however, for he still owns forty acres of this farm, to the operation of which he yet gives his supervision, although he leaves the actual work to others. The remainder of the property is now owned by his son, who is associated with him in his agricultural interests.

Mr. Brown was married, December 31, 1855, to Miss Nancy J. Lee, a native of Ohio, in which state her parents, Richard and Nancy J. (Ward) Lee, were also born. Her father, who was of Irish descent, died in Ohio, and in 1853 her mother brought the family to Iowa, locating two miles west of Letts in Louisa county, and here her death occurred. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born four children, namely: Laura, who was born on the 16th of October, 1856, and is now the wife of William M. Griffin, of Letts; Elmore, born October 22, 1858, who married Thomas E. Norris, of Nichols, Iowa; Cordelia, born November 3, 1860, who wedded George W. Hankins, of Cedar township, Muscatine county; and Guy W., born April 27, 1875, who is now living with his father in Letts. He married Miss Clara B. Hildebaugh, who was born in



Louisa county, Iowa, on the 18th of November, 1875, a daughter of Alec and Lucinda (Wagner) Hidlebaugh, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Louisa county, Iowa, their marriage occurring in this county. Mr. Hidlebaugh engaged in farming until his retirement, in 1899, since which time he has resided in Letts. In his family are eight children, namely: Cora, the wife of H. H. Fullerton, of Muscatine county; Mary, who married William Rhyner, of Letts; John C., of Grand View, Iowa; William, residing in Muscatine county; Mrs. Guy W. Brown; Nettie M., of Muscatine county; and Nellie C. and Harry A., both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Guy W. Brown now have one child, Vera F., who was born on the 26th of February, 1899.

The political views of Hugh P. Brown are in accord with the principles of the democratic party, and while he has no desire for political preferment he keeps thoroughly informed concerning the questions and issues of the day, and is loyal and public-spirited in his citizenship. His has been a long and honorable life, characterized by well directed effort and earnest endeavor, and now, at the age of seventy-six years, he is spending the evening of his days in comfortable retirement, content with the thought that he has used his opportunities to good advantage and lived his life to good purpose.

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#### EDWARD D. WILLIAMS.

Edward D. Williams, who died May 3, 1891, leaving a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 9, Columbus City township, is remembered as a substantial citizen, who assisted materially in the development of this section of the county. He was born in Wales, July 12, 1835, a son of Morgan D. and Jane (Price) Williams. The father came to America with his family in 1843, taking up his residence for a number of years in Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming under much more favorable conditions than he could have expected in his native land. In 1866, after the close of the Civil war, he joined the great movement to the country west of the Mississippi river and selected Louisa county, Iowa, as his permanent home. Having prospered in his work in Wisconsin, he purchased two hundred and forty acres of good Iowa land and engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon a much larger scale than he had before attempted, meeting with a goodly measure of success. Here he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. In their family were ten children, Edward D. being the youngest. The others were: Thomas, John, Richard, Margaret, Jane, Elizabeth and Price, all of whom are deceased; Catharine and Mary.

Mr. Williams of this review crossed the ocean to the new world—which proved to him, indeed, a world of opportunity—when he was a boy of eight years and he soon became closely identified with America, which was to be his future home. He remained with his parents in Wisconsin and he came later to Iowa, locating permanently in Louisa county. He was an active and in-

dustrious man, fully awake to the importance of labor, and applied himself to such good purpose that he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres, which he improved by the erection of buildings and fences and by drainage and rotation of crops so that it became one of the desirable properties of the township.

On January 23, 1868, Mr. Williams was married, in Louisa county, to Miss Catherine Davis, a daughter of Evan H. and Elizabeth (Evans) Davis, both of whom were born in Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of eight children: Hugh, Evan and John, all of whom are deceased; Edward, who resides in Elm Grove township; Joseph, who makes his home in Louisa county; Robert, who died in the United States army; Elizabeth, the wife of W. V. Davis, of Louisa county; and Catherine, now Mrs. Edward D. Williams. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Williams, namely: Elizabeth J., who is at home; Augusta, who is also at home; Morgan, who is living in Elm Grove township; Margaret, the wife of John Humphrey, of Louisa county; and Sarah Edna, who for nine terms has been teacher of the Lincoln school in Columbus City township. She received advantages of education at the Columbus Junction high school and is known as one of the most capable teachers in the county.

Mr. Williams was a man of frank and kindly nature and easily won the friendship of those with whom he came in contact. As an intelligent and public-spirited man he took special interest in education and in the election of competent man to represent the county and state in public offices, although not himself a candidate for political honors. He was a republican and in religious belief gave his adherence to the Presbyterian church, of which he was an earnest supporter. Temperate in all things, he commanded the respect of his associates and neighbors and left to his family not only a comfortable property but the priceless heritage of an honored name.

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### BENJAMIN CUTKOMP.

Benjamin Cutkomp, who owns a valuable farm in Columbus City township and is known as one of the substantial citizens of Louisa county, his record being in the highest degree creditable, was born at Columbus City, January 18, 1864. He is a son of Charles and Amanda (Stoddard) Cutkomp, the former of whom was born in Germany. The father emigrated to America from his native land, arriving in Iowa in 1853. Later he went to Nebraska where he spent twenty-two years, but in 1906 returned to Columbus City and is now making his home with the subject of this review, having arrived at the age of seventy-five years. He learned the shoemaker's trade soon after coming to this country, but devoted his attention principally to farming. There were seven children in his family, namely: Erastus, and Charles, both deceased; Clarence, who makes his home in Emery, Nebraska; Eddie; Eva; Fred, also deceased; and Benjamin, of this review.



Benjamin Cutkomp received his early education in the public schools. He moved with his parents to Nebraska and assisted his father in farm work until twenty-three years of age, when he rented one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska which he cultivated for two years. He then returned to Iowa, continuing with marked success as a farmer and stock-raiser. He is now the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and ten acres, located near Columbus City, and also owns two houses in town. He is recognized as a man of fine business judgment and one who seldom undertakes anything he does not carry through to financial success.

On the 12th of October, 1886, Mr. Cutkomp was married to Miss Leona Cutkomp, a daughter of Henry and Sarah (Berry) Cutkomp. The parents were both born in Pennsylvania and are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cutkomp seven children were born, namely: Abraham; Jane, the wife of William Bretz, of Louisa county; Henry, also of Louisa county; Catharine, who married M. D. Hanft, of Columbus Junction; Lewis E., who makes his home in Louisa county; Ida, the widow of Thomas Stark, of Louisa county; and Leona, now Mrs. Benjamin Cutkomp. Mr. and Mrs. Cutkomp have become the parents of four children: Gussie, born October 15, 1887, died May 12, 1890; Herman Henry, who was born August 27, 1892, and is a graduate of the Columbus City high school; Samuel Milton, born January 8, 1895, and living at home; and Thomas W., born July 24, 1897.

Mr. Cutkomp is now in the prime of a prosperous and successful life and has many friends who admire him for his manly attributes of sincerity, energy and resourcefulness as well as for his pronounced social traits. He is an earnest supporter of the republican party and has served as a member of the school board and also in the city council. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church.

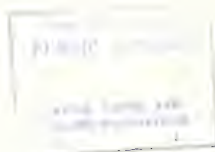
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#### LOUIS M. DALLMEYER.

Louis M. Dallmeyer, an enterprising and representative farmer and stockman of Concord township, is the owner of a valuable tract of land comprising one hundred and twenty acres on section 24. His birth occurred in Louisa county, Iowa, on the 23d of November, 1877, his parents being Claus and Dora (Wilkins) Dallmeyer, natives of Germany, who are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. He was reared to manhood under the parental roof and attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. When twenty-one years of age he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, operating the old homestead farm until March, 1908. At that time he purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres on section 24, Concord township, and its operation has since claimed his attention. With the exception of a pasture of thirty acres, the land is all under a high state of cultivation and many substantial improvements



MR. AND MRS. LOUIS M. DALLMEYER



adorn the property. In connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Dallmeyer devotes considerable attention to the raising, feeding and shipping of stock, which branch of his business adds materially to his annual income.

Mr. Dallmeyer has been married twice; his first wife being Miss Theresa Weise, who was a native of Iowa, and by whom he had two children, namely: Harland E., who was born on the 24th of February, 1899; and Lois M., whose natal day was February 17, 1901. The wife and mother was called to her final rest in February, 1903, and on the 12th of June, 1907, Mr. Dallmeyer was again married, his second union being with Miss Gertrude B. McDaniel, who was born at Winona, Minnesota, on the 8th of December, 1886. Her parents, Sylvester and Emily J. (Wilson) McDaniel, still survive and make their home at Fredonia, Iowa. Mrs. Dallmeyer is a graduate of the high school at Columbus Junction and taught school for two years prior to her marriage. Her children were four in number, as follows: Francis R., born January 10, 1908, who died in infancy; A. Evelyn, whose natal day was November 8, 1909, and who passed away on the 19th of January, 1910; M. Marie, a twin of A. Evelyn, who died on the 20th of January, 1910; and Lola G., whose birth occurred on the 9th of January, 1911.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Dallmeyer has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He is now serving in the capacity of township trustee. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 305 at Columbus Junction, in which he has filled all of the chairs. He is also a member of the encampment and has likewise filled all of the chairs therein. His entire life has been spent in Louisa county, where he has a wide acquaintance and is favorably known.

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### HARRY Z. KERR.

Although comparatively a recent arrival in Louisa county, having come to Iowa only about two years ago, Harry Z. Kerr has gained an enviable reputation as a farmer and stock-breeder and is now on the highway to prosperity. He owes his success to a thorough knowledge of his business and an energy which difficulties serve only to stimulate to greater exertions. He is a native of Geneseo, Illinois, born May 3, 1882, a son of Thomas Walker and Amanda (Henninger) Kerr. The father was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Wooster county, Ohio, February 23, 1841. They were married in 1859 and located in Illinois, where Mr. Kerr, Sr., engaged in farming. He died February 29, 1896. Mrs. Kerr survived her husband about twelve years, passing away November 11, 1908. There were nine children in their family, namely: Ella, the wife of F. O. Withrow, of Geneseo, Illinois; Amy, who became the wife of James Burton, of Kalispel, Montana; George, of Louisa county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Lena, who married E. E. Withrow, of Los Angeles, California; Mina, the wife of Percy Davis, of Gen-

eseo, Illinois; James, who makes his home in Louisa county; William and Thomas, both of whom are deceased; and Harry Z.

The subject of this review attended the district schools and was reared upon the home farm. At the age of fifteen he lost his father, but he continued with his mother and at twenty-one years of age began farming upon his own account by renting his mother's place. In 1909, the year following her death, he came to Louisa county, Iowa, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres, in Union township. Afterward he disposed of this land and rented two hundred and forty acres. He now has charge of two hundred acres, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He makes a specialty of raising shorthorn cattle and owns a full blooded registered Percheron horse named Albert Sidney Johnson, and a full blooded jack called Young Joe. He is a man of progressive ideas and by good judgment has secured for himself a handsome annual income.

On the 21st of December, 1904, Mr. Kerr was married, in Illinois, to Miss Dora M. Hall, a daughter of Albert and Harriet (Anderson) Hall, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Sweden. They are now living at Colona, Illinois. There were five children in their family: Abbie M., the wife of James Hall, of Woonsocket, South Dakota; Arthur W., who resides at Colona, Illinois; Frank W., who is living at Silvis, Illinois; Dora M., now Mrs. Harry Z. Kerr; and Gertrude I., who married Ben Stottmeister, of Warner, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr have become the parents of four children: Wilbert Warren, who was born October 15, 1905; Mabel Evelyn, born November 2, 1907; Norma Almyra, born September 10, 1909; and Roy Melvin, born August 14, 1911.

Politically Mr. Kerr affiliates with the republican party and is in hearty accord with its principles. Fraternally he is identified with the Mystic Workers of the World and in religious belief is connected with the Presbyterian church. Active, earnest and efficient in business affairs, he generally secures satisfactory results in everything he undertakes and his friends are confident of his continued advancement.

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#### WILLIAM E. EDWARDS.

William E. Edwards, who is known as one of the most active and energetic citizens of Wapello and is also one of its most prosperous business men, is a native of Louisa county, and was born May 25, 1870, a son of Charles W. and Delia (Merriam) Edwards. The father was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1822, and the mother in Oswego county, New York. Charles W. Edwards passed his boyhood days upon a farm and at the age of nineteen years engaged on his own account in buying and selling stock, a business in which he became very successful. In the fall of 1862 he removed to Peoria, Illinois, and two years later arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, being so well pleased

with this section of the state that he decided to establish his permanent home here. He accordingly purchased ten hundred and sixty-seven acres of land located partly in Elliott township, Louisa county, and partly in Des Moines county. He made many improvements and from time to time increased his holdings until he became the owner of two thousand acres, his various improvements costing him over twenty thousand dollars. He engaged in general farming and was also a large cattle feeder and shipper, making a specialty of polled Angus cattle. In 1853, in Oneida county, New York, he was married to Miss Lucia Lomis and by this union one child was born, Charles, who died in infancy. The mother passed away in 1855 and on July 3, 1860, Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Delia Merriam, and to this union were born three children: Frederick C., who is now living in Kansas City, Missouri; William E., of this review; and Daisy L., the wife of L. C. Erbes, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

William E. Edwards, whose name introduces this sketch, attended the district schools and also took a course at Elliott's Business College, of Burlington, Iowa, graduating in 1889. He engaged in farming for a year and then purchased a wagon and plow plant at Wapello, which he operated until 1900. On account of unfavorable conditions the venture proved unprofitable and Mr. Edwards next became connected with the Deering Harvester Company, representing that company on the road for three years. He then accepted a position with the Perkins Company, of Mishawaka, Indiana, manufacturers of windmills, and continued with this concern for two years. In 1895 he assisted in organizing a stock company at Des Moines which established a large department store, Mr. Edwards having charge of the sales department. After a year's experience in this line of business he perceived larger opportunities in the land business and secured a very favorable option on a tract of land in the southwest, which he handled to excellent advantage. In 1910 he associated with J. M. Guthrie in the farm implement and automobile business at Wapello and they now have the largest establishment of this kind in southwestern Iowa. The partners in the business are both practical men and devote their best efforts to the fulfillment of their duties, finding a reward in the steady growth of trade and a constant addition of new patrons.

On the 22d of January, 1891, Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Lola G. Hook, a daughter of George W. and Emily B. (Trask) Hook, whose parents were pioneer settlers of Louisa county and who are now deceased. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Edwards: Georgie, who was born May 23, 1892, and died in August of the same year; and Lucille, whose natal day was October 17, 1900. Mrs. Edwards was the eighth in order of birth in a family of nine children, the others being: Elisha, who is now living in Chicago; Alonzo, of Toolsboro, Iowa; Sophia, who is deceased; Jessie, who is the wife of Abraham Parsons, of Louisa county; Grant and George, both of Louisa county; Emma, the widow of Dr. F. R. Wright, of Wapello; and Merritt B., who is now engaged in the practice of medicine at Denver, Colorado.

Fraternally Mr. Edwards is a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and politically he gives his support to the republican party. He

is a sincere believer in the Christian religion and is an adherent of the Presbyterian church. Public-spirited and progressive, he is ever willing to lend his assistance to every movement that he believes will advance the general good. He is a man of resourceful business ability and in the field to which he has turned his attention he has found ample room for the exercise of talents which have brought him well merited rewards.

### JAMES P. COURTNY.

A valuable farm property of three hundred and eighty-six acres, located in Port Louisa township, Louisa county, stands as the visible evidence of the splendid success that has been achieved by James P. Courtney. He is a native of this state, born in Muscatine, February 4, 1867, a son of James and Mary (Leahy) Courtney. The mother was born in Ireland and the father was a Canadian by birth. They were married, however, in Muscatine, Iowa, and there lived for twenty-five years, after which they established a permanent residence in Louisa county. Here the father purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty-four acres on section 15, Port Louisa township, which constitutes a part of the land now owned by your subject. He was for many years actively engaged in farming and became a prosperous and influential citizen of his section of the county. He passed away in the year 1880 and was for many years survived by his widow, who departed this life in 1892. They reared a family of seven children, of whom James P. of this review is the eldest. The others are: John T., a resident of Jackson township; Katie, who died in childhood; Frank, who makes his home in Washington county, Iowa; Michael, who makes his home with his brother James; Ella, the wife of H. E. Kelly, of El Paso, Texas; and Felista, who died at the age of eighteen years.

James P. Courtney was reared on the home farm, assisting in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting during the spring and summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the common schools. He gave his father the benefit of his services until he attained his majority, and then in connection with his younger brothers, he operated the home-stead farm for four years. At the end of that time he purchased his brothers' interests in the home farm and has since been alone in business. As above stated, the home place comprised one hundred and fifty-four acres, to which Mr. Courtney added as his financial resources permitted until his possessions now cover three hundred and eighty-six acres, of which two hundred and twenty-five acres are under cultivation. This land is located in Port Louisa township and is some of the most productive to be found in the county, or in fact, in the state. Mr. Courtney has a thorough understanding of the best methods of farm work and his labors have brought him a substantial measure of prosperity.

Mr. Courtney was married August 12, 1895, the lady of his choice being Miss Nancy H. Brown, who was born in Davis county, Iowa, in June, 1861, a daughter



of John and Anna (Daniels) Brown. They were both natives of Ohio but were numbered among the pioneer settlers of Iowa, their first home being in Davis county. Eventually they established their home in Louisa county, where their remaining days were passed. The father died in 1870, but the mother survived for many years and departed this life in 1892. They became the parents of the following children, of whom only six are now living: Benjamin, a resident of Louisa county; Peter, now in Alaska; Elizabeth, the wife of H. J. Speck, a resident of Oklahoma; Mary, the wife of H. N. Matthews, of Oakville, Iowa; Nancy H., now Mrs. Courtney; and David, a resident of Carroll, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Courtney have been born three children: Velma L., who was born January 28, 1896; James O., born March 19, 1898; and Edna J., born March 13, 1900. In politics Mr. Courtney is a republican but is not an office seeker, the only public position he has ever filled being that on the school board. He is a Modern Woodman, belonging to the camp at Wapello, and he and his family are identified with the Catholic church. Steadily pursuing his way undeterred by the obstacles and difficulties that beset his path in earlier life, he has achieved a prosperity of which he has every reason to be proud, and at the same time commands the highest respect and good-will of his fellow-men.

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#### CHARLES C. SNYDER.

Charles C. Snyder is numbered among the enterprising young business men of Grand View township, being a member of the firm of Snyder Brothers, proprietors of a general merchandise store at Letts, Iowa. He was born in Muscatine county, this state, on the 9th of November, 1885, a son of John and Phoebe (Griffin) Snyder. The parents, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively, were married in Iowa and were numbered among the pioneer settlers of this district. For many years they resided upon a farm in Louisa county but are now living retired in Letts, where they own a comfortable home. In their family were but two sons, Charles C. and Bert F., business partners in this town.

The elder son attended the public and high schools in the acquirement of an education, and remained with his parents, assisting in the work about the home farm, until eighteen years of age. Thinking to find other labor more congenial and remunerative, he came to Letts and for four years was employed as a book-keeper in a general merchandise store. At the expiration of that period he joined his brother in the establishment of an independent business venture, becoming a joint partner with him in a general merchandise store. The broad experience which each had received in this line of business, the elder in a clerical capacity and the younger as a clerk in the sales department, well qualified them for the successful conduct of an enterprise of their own, and since its inception their house has enjoyed a steady increase in trade, being now one of the leading concerns of Letts. They handle a well selected line of stock, calculated to meet the demands of their patrons, and the progressive policy which the young men have



instituted makes them foremost among the business men of this locality.

Charles C. Snyder was married on the 27th of December, 1907, to Miss Martha C. Cox, who was born in Vernon county, Missouri, on the 1st of April, 1884. She is a daughter of Joseph J. and Evelyn (Williams) Cox, both natives of Missouri, the former of Jackson and the latter of Rolla. They were married at Independence, Missouri. For a number of years the father was engaged in the mercantile and blacksmithing business, but at present operates a butcher shop at Milo, Missouri. He served four years in the Civil war as a soldier of Company E, Fifth Missouri Cavalry. He has now reached the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey, but his wife is deceased, her death occurring on the 2d of August, 1906. In their family were five children, of whom Mrs. Snyder is the youngest in order of birth, the others being: Niecey, wife of James E. Gray, of Parsons, Kansas; Aurelius, who married Christie McKay and now resides in Neck City, Missouri; Minnie, wife of J. H. Rhyme, of Roy, New Mexico; and Lulu, also of Roy, New Mexico. Two daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Snyder: Evelyn Ruth, born January 27, 1909; and Lulu Ellen, born September 25, 1910. Mrs. Snyder, whose education includes graduation from high school, has become well known since her arrival in Letts, and has gained for herself a large circle of warm friends. She holds membership in the Baptist church.

Fraternally Mr. Snyder is a Mason, belonging to Triangular Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., at Letts. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has given his support to the democratic party and has served in the office of city clerk of Letts two years. He is deeply interested in the welfare of the community, lending his influence on the side of all those measures which have for their object its improvement and advancement, and the high principles which have ever governed his actions, whether in private, business or public capacity, have gained for him the respect and good will of his fellow citizens.

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### J. FRED HUFF.

Three years ago J. Fred Huff rented his farm in Columbus City township and he and his wife have since been living at ease, Mr. Huff having acquired a competence through years of energetic and successful application. He comes of good Pennsylvania ancestry and was born in the Keystone state November 8, 1857, a son of L. W. and Anna Stamen (Hipple) Huff, record of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

J. Fred Huff received his education in Pennsylvania and came with his parents in 1871 to Louisa county, Iowa. He continued on his father's farm until after reaching maturity and at twenty-six years of age rented one hundred and fifty-eight acres on section 5, Columbus City township, which he cultivated for two years. He then went to Des Moines county, Iowa, and took up his residence on the farm of his father-in-law, his home for eleven years. In 1895 he re-

turned with his family to Louisa county and purchased one hundred and four acres upon which he established his homestead. He has greatly improved the farm so that it compares favorably with any other place of the size in the county. The residence is a beautiful two-story building and is provided with all modern conveniences, making it one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in the township.

On the 29th of November, 1884, Mr. Huff was married to Miss Emma Carter, a daughter of Edwin and Mary (Sargent) Carter. Mrs. Huff was a member of a family of eight children, namely: Marion, the first cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Columbus Junction and now deceased; Minerva, the wife of Edward Albright, of Danville, Iowa; John, a resident of Spokane, Washington; Ollie, who married Wesley Albright, of Burlington, Iowa; Emma, now Mrs. J. Fred Huff; Mary F., the wife of Rufus Boyce, of Pecos Valley, New Mexico; Nevada E., at home; and Albina, who married Frank Ritchey, of Des Moines county.

Politically Mr. Huff has been, from the time he cast his first ballot, in hearty sympathy with the republican party and his support has been given to its candidates and platforms. He is a stanch believer in the Bible and holds membership in the Methodist church. His life has been actuated by worthy ideals and characterized by many kindly acts so that today he is greatly esteemed by those with whom he has had business or social relations. It is hardly necessary to say that he is a valued member of the community and that he always willingly assists in promoting any cause that aims to add to the permanent good of this section.

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#### HON. HILTON M. LETTS.

Death is ever regarded as an unwelcome messenger, but when he enters a happy home and deprives it of one of its most valued members the visitation is, indeed, profoundly to be regretted. When the head of a family is taken away in the midst of a life of usefulness and honor the entire community joins in mourning. Few citizens of Louisa county have been more respected than Hilton M. Letts, whose demise, March 6, 1911, at the age of fifty-three years, nine months and twenty days, deprived the county of one of its native sons, whose manly character and kind acts endeared him to all who had the honor of his acquaintance. He was born on the old family homestead in Grand View township, May 13, 1857, being a son of Madison N. Letts, a pioneer and a prominent citizen of this county.

The boyhood days of H. M. Letts were spent upon the home farm and in attendance at the district schools. Later he became a student of the State Agricultural College at Ames, being the first student to enter that institution from Louisa county. After leaving college he engaged in agriculture and stock-raising and from the start showed an enterprise and ability that gave assurance

of marked success. His business talents were early recognized and at the age of twenty-four years he was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Louisa county and was made chairman of that body, serving with highest credit to himself and with special benefit to the county. His services in behalf of Louisa county were further utilized in 1897, when he was elected on the republican ticket as a member of the state legislature. He represented the county in the legislature for four years, from 1898 to 1902, and the office has seldom been filled with such general acceptance to the people. He also served for a number of years as trustee of the Agricultural College at Ames. As the years passed he became one of the leading men of this section. A number of years ago he was appointed general manager of a stock and development company in Yucatan, Mexico, and spent two years in that country to the great advantage of persons interested. He became the owner of more than one thousand acres of good land in Louisa county and was one of the organizers of the Rocky Mountain Supply Company, of Koehler, New Mexico, being associated in this enterprise with his brothers-in-law, Frank and Charles Springer. The company established the first packing plant in the southwest and handled successfully a large tract of land, Mr. Letts being president of the organization, which under his skilful guidance became highly successful.

On the 5th of May, 1880, Mr. Letts was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Springer, a daughter of the late Judge Francis Springer, of Iowa. To this union three children were born: Mrs. George Remley, of Cimarron, New Mexico; and Mary Helen and Warren. The son is now in charge of the farming interests of his father. Mary Helen was married May 5, 1911, at Columbus Junction to Earl Brown, of Emmetsburg, Iowa, where they are now residing.

Mr. Letts' death was due to an affection of the heart after a few weeks' illness. The following summary of his character appeared in one of the newspapers of Columbus Junction and, having been written by one who was personally acquainted with Mr. Letts, it seems especially appropriate as a conclusion to this review: "Death in any event has its sting, but in this case it seems all the more intense because of Mr. Letts' general character. He was a broad-minded man, a man of strong convictions but tender as a child in his association with his family and friends. Throughout his entire active career he was governed by a high sense of duty to those with whom he associated and to his fellowmen regardless of their religious or political belief. He was a sincere and upright man whom to know was to love and whose greatest delight was to assist in promoting the welfare and happiness of others. He was true as steel to his friends and he had a strong contempt for deceit and dishonesty whether in business or in politics. He had little regard for men who were not square in their dealings. His death will be mourned by his numerous friends here and elsewhere. That he was held in high esteem by his many acquaintances is attested by the many expressions of sympathy that from far and near have been extended to the bereaved family."

In accordance with the wishes of Mr. Letts the funeral services were simple but very impressive. On that occasion the Columbus Safeguard of Columbus

Junction wrote: "There among his lifelong friends, friends who had been associated with him in the most important affairs and events of his life; among the beloved members of his immediate family, his relatives and his neighbors, surrounded by a wealth of choice flowers, the most fragrant and precious products of the earth, the Rev. R. G. Jones, rector of Christ's Episcopal church of Burlington, uttered a fervent prayer, gave a portion of the Episcopal service and a brief biography of the life of the deceased. Professor C. F. Curtis of the State Agricultural College of Ames, an intimate friend of Mr. Letts, paid the following fine tribute to Mr. Letts, after which the remains were taken to Columbus City and interred in the cemetery at that place: 'My own inclination would be to sit in silence on this occasion under the burden of the great sorrow that overwhelms us all. My heart goes out to the stricken family and to the host of intimate friends upon whom this grief falls most heavily. The shadow of death comes silently and enshrouded in a mystery too deep for human comprehension. When the light of a strong life goes out we sit in darkness—lost in God's unfathomable plan; yet trusting and believing in things unseen and in the life eternal. There is in the making of a strong, purposeful life something akin to the giant of the forest. It gathers a grandeur, a majesty, a tenderness and a deep and lasting affection with the passing of the years. These lives grapple us with "hooks of steel" and uplift us a little higher and a little further on the journey to the great beyond. For nearly twenty years it has been my privilege to know H. M. Letts and to love and esteem him most highly. During that time as a member of the legislature and as a member of the board of trustees he was a loyal and devoted friend of the Iowa State college. He was a man of high ideals, of unswerving integrity and of unselfish public-spirited motives. He gave the best of his commanding powers to every service. He stood uncompromisingly for the things that are honorable and upright. He had deep convictions of truth and a high sense of honor; and he detested sham and wrong in every form. A strong lovable character of this kind leaves a lasting impression on many lives. The many impulses, the clean-cut, honest convictions for which he stood became firmly impressed on those of his friends and associates who knew him best; his faith becomes our faith and his clearness of vision points the way to us. The struggle of an earnest life is exemplified in the following lines:

"By thine own soul's law learn to live,  
And if men thwart thee take no heed,  
And if men hate thee have no care;  
Sing thou thy song and do thy deed.  
Hope thou thy hope and pray thy prayer,  
Keep thou thy soul sworn steadfast oath,  
And to thy heart be true thy heart;  
What thy soul teaches learn to know,  
And play out thy appointed part;  
And thou shalt reap as thou shalt sow;

Nor helped nor hindered in thy growth,  
To thy full stature thou shall grow.  
Fix on the future goal thy face,  
And let thy feet be lured to stray  
Not whither, but be swift to run,  
And nowhere tarry by the way,  
Until at last the end is won  
And thou mayst look back from thy place  
And see thy long day's journey done."

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#### H. P. MAY.

For more than forty years H. P. May was a resident of Columbus City township and although he is no longer to be seen in his accustomed place, having been summoned from the view of mortal eyes, his memory is deeply revered and the kindly acts of his life will not soon be forgotten. He was a native of Indiana, born December 27, 1831, a son of Stephen and Malinda (Harper) May, both of whom were born in Kentucky. The parents were married in their native state and soon afterward moved to Indiana, where they continued until 1842 when the father brought his family to Iowa. He entered government land in Louisa county and engaged in farming and the nursery business though he was a carpenter by trade. His death occurred in 1854. There were six children in his family only one of whom is now living.

H. P. May came with his parents to Iowa at the age of eleven years and grew to manhood in Louisa county. He continued at home until after the death of his father and subsequently embarked in the nursery business on his own account upon a place which he owned on section 25, Columbus City township. He continued there until 1866 and then took up his residence on a farm near the limits of Columbus City which became the family homestead. He was successful in his business and was greatly respected by his neighbors and friends on account of his genial disposition.

On December 30, 1855, Mr. May was married to Miss Lydia Jeffreys, who was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 24, 1835, a daughter of Mifflin and Jane Jeffreys, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. Mr. Jeffreys came with his family to Louisa county in 1854, and he and his wife continued here during the remainder of their lives. In their family were ten children, all of whom are now deceased except Mrs. May. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. May, namely: H. S., who makes his home in Louisa county; Eva, who is the wife of W. L. Ayers, of Columbus Junction, where he is engaged in the jewelry business; Clara, who became the wife of Charles Whitney, of Clinton, Iowa; John, a resident of Columbus City; H. L., at home; and three deceased.

Mr. May died June 22, 1895, being then in his sixty-fourth year. He was a man of unexceptionable character, straightforward, energetic and efficient in all his undertakings and a worthy descendant of pioneer ancestry. In religious belief he adhered to the Christian church, of which his widow is also a valued member. He was of a kindly and sympathetic nature and made many friends who were attracted by his manly characteristics and his desire to promote the happiness of others.

H. L. May was born on the old homestead in Louisa county and received excellent advantages of education in the public schools. From his boyhood he showed special adaptability to agricultural pursuits and he has continued upon the home farm, eighty acres of which is within the corporate limits of Columbus City. He also has fifteen acres which is utilized as a nursery and in this line of business he has been highly successful. On November 22, 1898, he was married to Miss Frona Koos, who was born at Odin, Illinois and they have four children: Cecilia G., Lydia G., Francis L. and Alitha. Mr. May is a member of Lodge No. 3145, M. W. A., of Columbus Junction, and is recognized as one of the substantial men of the community.

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### JAMES E. KERR.

Through well directed business activity and enterprise James E. Kerr has gained recognition as one of the most prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Louisa county. He is now the owner of two excellent farms and in the management of his farming and stock-raising interests is meeting with gratifying success. A native of Illinois, his birth occurred in Henry county, on the 23d of May, 1874, a son of Thomas Walker and Amanda (Henninger) Kerr. The parents were born in Pennsylvania and Wooster, Ohio, respectively, the latter being born on the 23d of February, 1841. After their marriage in 1859 they took up their home in Illinois, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. He passed away on the 29th of February, 1896, while his wife's death occurred on the 11th of November, 1908. In their family were nine children, as follows: Ella, who married F. O. Withrow, of Geneseo, Illinois; Amy, the wife of James Burton, of Kalispel, Montana; George, of Louisa county, mention of whom is made on another page of this volume; Lena, who wedded E. E. Withrow, of Los Angeles, California; Mina, the wife of Percy Davis, of Geneseo, Illinois; James E. of this review; William and Thomas, both now deceased; and Harry Z., whose sketch also appears elsewhere in this history.

No event of special importance came to vary the routine of life for James E. Kerr during the period of his boyhood and youth, which was spent on the homestead in Illinois, and upon attaining the age of twenty-one years he took up farming on his own account, wisely choosing as his life work the occupation to which he had been reared. For two or three years he rented the home place, and then located on a tract of one hundred acres, which he also operated in the

capacity of renter for two years. At the end of that period he went to South Dakota, where he engaged in farming for one season, after which he returned to Illinois, renting two hundred and sixty acres near Reynolds, that state, which he continued to operate for eight years. On the 1st of March, 1911, he came to Louisa county and has since made his home within its borders. Two years previous he had purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, on section 8, Union township, and upon this tract he took up his abode, continuing to make it his place of residence to the present time. The prosperity which has come to him during the intervening years made it possible, in the fall of 1910, to invest in another tract of land, at which time he became the owner of one hundred and fourteen acres in Columbus City township, which he has now leased and from which he receives good rental. He personally supervises the cultivation of his home place, which is a highly developed and improved property, and here he carries on general farming and stock-raising, in both of which branches his efforts are meeting with most satisfactory results.

Mr. Kerr was married, on the 31st of December, 1902, to Miss Mary I. Collis, the younger of two children born unto William and Lorinda (King) Collis, natives of Illinois, her brother being William Henry Collis, of Henry county, Illinois. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Kerr has been blessed with two children: Glenn William, born November 2, 1903; and Ruth Amanda, born March 28, 1908.

The religious faith of Mr. Kerr is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, while in his political belief he is a republican. He has never sought nor desired public office for himself, but he has preferred to concentrate his entire attention upon the conduct of his private business, and the success which has attended his efforts has been substantial and well merited. On the strength of his own resources, through the constant application of perseverance, coupled with hard work and careful management, he has put his energies to excellent work and has subserved them to such a degree that he has been able to attain substantial prosperity and now ranks among the prominent and well known agriculturists of this locality.

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#### WILLIAM A. KNOTT.

The real-estate interests of Columbus Junction and vicinity find an able representative in William A. Knott whose field of operations, however, is not confined to Louisa county but extends to many parts of the west. He was born in Concord township, June 7, 1883, a son of E. A. and Lavina (Walker) Knott. The parents were born and reared in this county and are still living here.

William A. Knott possessed advantages of education in the public schools and later attended high school. At the age of eighteen he entered the service of the Rock Island Railway Company and continued for six years. He then followed farming for two years, at the end of which time he entered the real-estate busi-



ness at Columbus Junction. From the start he showed an adaptability to this vocation that gave promise of generous returns. He is senior member of the firm of Knott & Kauffman and deals in local and western lands, this firm being one of the most active concerns of the kind in Louisa county. Mr. Knott owns twenty-two acres of land in his own name, a part of which is located within the limits of Columbus Junction.

In 1904 he was united in marriage to Miss Clara Nelson, a native of Muscatine county, Iowa, and a daughter of Alonzo and Agnes (Edmunds) Nelson. The mother is deceased but the father is still living and makes his home in Louisa county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Knott, Agnes, Donald and Russell.

In politics Mr. Knott is a stanch adherent of the republican party. Fraternally he is very well known, being a valued member of Lodge No. 365, I. O. O. F.; Lodge No. 20, K. P.; Camp No. 2145, M. W. A.; and also of Lodge No. 304, B. P. O. E., of Muscatine. He is a young man of remarkable enterprise and energy and his friends do not doubt that as the years pass he will become a prominent factor in the development of this section of the state.

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#### R. H. WHEELER.

R. H. Wheeler, who owns a fine farming property of one hundred and sixty acres in Elm Grove township, was born in Pennsylvania on the 12th of May, 1858. He is a son of Elisha and Catherine Wheeler, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Maryland. In 1867 they came to Iowa, first locating in Lee county, where they resided for three years. At the end of that time they came to Louisa county, continuing to make this their home until they passed away. Eleven children were born to them, all of whom are living.

R. H. Wheeler obtained the greater portion of his education in the common schools of this state. His boyhood and youth were very similar to those of all farmer lads, much of his time when not in school being devoted to work upon the home farm. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, following which he worked for two years as a farm hand. Subsequently he went to Missouri, where he farmed as a renter for a year, and then returned to Iowa. Here he was married, after which he went back to Missouri, where he remained for eight years. At the expiration of that period he again took up his residence in Louisa county, where he rented land until 1896 and then bought his present place, which is a portion of the old Porter farm. He has made the improvements on his property and is now successfully engaged in the raising and feeding of cattle in connection with the tilling of his fields.

For his wife and helpmate Mr. Wheeler chose Miss Anna Porter, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Hugh and Lydia (Maloney) Porter, natives of Ireland. They emigrated to America in 1833, locating in the state of New York, where they remained for about ten years, during which time they were



married. Soon afterward they came to Iowa and bought a farm in Louisa county, where they were residing at the time of their demise. Eight children were born to them, four of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have five children: Roscoe P, Nellie, Bertha, Mabel and Helen, all still at home.

Mr. Wheeler is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Mrs. Wheeler of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a republican but has never held any official position save that of school director, always having preferred to give his undivided attention to the development of his personal interests.

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### EDWARD S. JOHNSTON.

Edward S. Johnston, who is engaged in farming an eighty acre tract on section 29, Elliott township, was born near Columbia City, Indiana, on the 16th of June, 1866. He is the eldest son of W. R. and Martha D. (Bennett) Johnston, both originally from Ohio, the mother being a native of Worthington, that state. The father, who has always been an agriculturist, is a veteran of the Civil war, having gone to the front in 1862, as a member of Company F, One Hundredth Indiana Infantry. During the period of his enlistment W. R. Johnston saw much active service and was taken prisoner at Macon, Georgia, but made his escape a week later, while at Jonesborough he was wounded in the left arm and now draws a pension. He was at the front about three years, receiving his discharge at Washington, D. C., in December, 1865. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston as follows: Edward S., the subject of this sketch; Adlie, the deceased wife of Jacob Helbig, of Alexandria, Indiana; Nora, the wife of Allie Hill, of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mary, the deceased wife of Wartz Staples, of Columbus City, Indiana; Della, who is deceased; John A., a resident of Columbia City, Indiana; Lewis, who is living in the same place; Kora F., also of Columbia City; William Thomas of Louisa county; James H., of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Clifford, deceased.

After he had acquired sufficient knowledge of the common branches to enable him to begin his active business career Edward S. Johnston laid aside his textbooks and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until he was twenty-one. He subsequently removed to Audubon, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand for a time, and then returned home, where he remained for two years. At the expiration of that period he went to Sioux City and worked in the stock yards for four years, following which he again returned to Indiana, where he remained for a year. In 1895 he went to Wapello, and in 1904 purchased eighty acres of land, located on section 29, Elliott township. He settled upon his farm on the 21st of March, 1904, and there he has since continued to reside, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Johnston had the misfortune to lose his barn, some stock and five tons of hay by fire on the 14th of March, 1911. In the fall of 1911 he erected a modern home on his farm and today has a well improved place.

On the 23d of February, 1898, Mr. Johnston and Miss Ida M. Newell were united in marriage. Her parents were Thomas and Sarah J. (Mock) Newell, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively. They had ten children: Elizabeth, the deceased wife of George Hensley, of Muscatine, Iowa; Josephine, who married Thomas Wiser, of Adair county, this state; Hugh T., who is a resident of the same county; Samuel P., who is living in Denver, Colorado; Robert W., an agriculturist of Wapello township; Benjamin, who is also living in Denver; Ida M., now Mrs. Johnston; William, who is living in this county; Vira; and Abe, of Denver. Mr. Newell passed away on the 27th of September, 1899, at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife died on the 24th of April, 1905, at the age of seventy-two. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been born the following children: Elsie Irene, born December 4, 1898; Minnie May, whose birth occurred on the 1st of November, 1900; William Newell, born on the 22d of April, 1903; Merit Edward, born on the 6th of December, 1905; and Sherman Everett, whose birth occurred on the 18th of August, 1908.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnston adhere to the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. A republican in politics he is serving his third term as assessor in Elliott township, and while residing in Indiana he was constable, always having taken an active interest in political affairs ever since attaining his majority.

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### THEODORE GRAFE.

The late Theodore Grafe, who at the time of his demise had been a resident of Columbus Junction for twenty-nine years, was born in Hanover, Germany, in April, 1841. There he spent the first twenty-nine years of his life, but having decided that America afforded better business advantages, he took passage for the United States in 1870. Upon his arrival in this country he made his way westward to Columbus Junction, Iowa, where he engaged in business for three years. At the expiration of that period he purchased thirty acres of land, in the cultivation of which he was for a time engaged. He subsequently disposed of this and bought property in Columbus Junction, where he had built several houses, in one of which he was residing at the time of his death on the 27th of December, 1899.

Mr. Grafe was twice married, his second wife being Miss Elizabeth Avesing, whom he married on the 15th of October, 1875. Mrs. Grafe is the oldest daughter of the late Harmon and Gertrude (Manka) Avesing, both natives of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Avesing there were born seven children, in order of birth as follows: Elizabeth, the widow of Theodore Grafe; Dena, who became the wife of Frank Rath, of Goshen, Washington; Henry, who is living in Muscatine; Herman, who is a resident of Germany; George, whose place of

residence is Kansas City, Missouri; August, who is living in Columbus Junction; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Grafe became the parents of seven children, as follows: Clara, deceased; Walter, who is living in San Francisco, California; Mamie, the wife of William Schlung, of South Dakota; Theodore, who lives in San Francisco; Esther, who is at home; and two who died in infancy.

The family are all communicants of the Roman Catholic church, and in his political views Mr. Grafe was a democrat. Mrs. Grafe is well known in Columbus Junction, where she has so long resided and has many friends among the German circles.

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### THOMAS D. WILSON.

Thomas D. Wilson, who has been living retired in Morning Sun for the past six years, was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 10th of January, 1836, his parents being Daniel and Catherine (Rock) Wilson. The father was a veteran of the war of 1812, while his grandfather Rock was in the Revolution. Daniel Wilson passed away in 1845 and three years later his wife and family migrated to Iowa, settling in Louisa county.

Thomas D. Wilson, who was only a lad of twelve years when the family located in Louisa county, obtained his education in the common schools of Ohio and Iowa. At the age of eighteen he apprenticed himself to a blacksmith and for fifty years thereafter continued to follow that trade. On August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, First Iowa Cavalry, under Captain Levi Chase, and went to the front, where he served for three years, being mustered out on the 15th of June, 1865. Returning to Morning Sun he resumed his chosen vocation, which he followed for four years at that place and then removed to Warren county. He lived there until 1893, when he returned to Morning Sun, where he has resided continuously since. He owns a fine residence here and two lots, in addition to which he has a farm of eighty acres in Cherokee county, Kansas.

On the 12th of November, 1857, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Susanna M. Raushenberger, who was born in Ohio on the 1st of July, 1839. She is a daughter of John and Mary (Messer) Raushenberger, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Virginia. Unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born five children, only two of whom now survive: James Franklin, the eldest son and second in order of birth, is living in Warren county, Iowa; and Edna, the youngest daughter and fourth in order of birth, is living at home. Those deceased are: Mary Catherine, the eldest of the family and the wife of W. D. Nelson; William H. and Riley M. Mrs. Nelson left the following children at her demise: Bessie May; James Dale; and Mame Etta, now the wife of William P. Hunt, of Virginia Grove, Iowa.



THOMAS D. WILSON  
as a Soldier



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS D. WILSON



Mrs. Wilson passed away on the 13th of October, 1905, and was laid to rest in the Elmwood cemetery at Morning Sun.

Mr. Wilson is affiliated with the United Presbyterian church, of which his wife was also a member, and he has served as ruling elder since 1872. His political support he gives to the republican party. Although he never took a very active part in municipal affairs, he filled some of the minor township offices. Public-spirited, he has ever been found ready to assume his responsibilities of citizenship in times of need, having faithfully and valiantly served his country in the Civil war, as did his father in the war of 1812 and his grandfather in the Revolution.

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### JAMES ROBINSON LETTS.

James Robinson Letts was born near the town of Newark, Licking county, Ohio, December 20, 1820. His grandfather in the paternal line was Nehemiah Letts, a soldier of the Revolutionary war and a minute man who did considerable service for his country in the long struggle for national independence. The Nehemiah Letts Chapter of the D. A. R. in Louisa county was formed of his descendants and the wives of his descendants who could show a Revolutionary line.

David Letts, the father of James R. Letts, was born in Pennsylvania and in early manhood wedded Mrs. Elizabeth (Lair) Dunavan, who was at that time a widow. They became early settlers of Licking county, Ohio. The mother had three sons by her first marriage, Albert, William and George Dunavan, who removed to Illinois with their stepfather, Mr. Letts, and became prominent in the development of La Salle county. Unto David and Elizabeth Letts were born three sons, Madison, James and Noah, all of whom eventually became settlers of Louisa county and continued residents there until called to their final home. One daughter, Amanda, was added to the family and she with her six brothers—the Dunavans and the Letts—accompanied her parents on their removal to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1830, at which time the family ranged in age from nineteen years down to six. On coming to this state the Letts family settled at Cedar Point, in La Salle county. The following winter has since been known in history as the "winter of the deep snow." The Letts had no cows that winter and milk and butter could not be purchased at any price. Even flour was not to be had that season and the grist-mills failed. The Letts family were obliged to erect a corn pounder in the kitchen, which was operated by two of the sons, who were confined to the house with frostbitten feet. The hopper of this mill was made by hollowing out a section of a log at one end and driving the bolt of a wagon in the bottom. The pounder was an iron wedge fastened to a spring pole sustained from the ceiling. The corn was broken and pounded until the finer portions were sifted out for bread and the coarser for hominy. Their diet was limited to pork, corn bread, hominy and

prairie chickens, and now and then it was varied with venison, for deer was then plentiful. The Black Hawk war broke out in 1832 and James R. Letts, then a boy of eleven, remembers well how a messenger riding a foam-covered horse drew up to their door, telling them a terrible tale of the massacre of two families on Indian Creek and that no doubt many others would be murdered that night by the Indians. The mother ordered a carriage prepared, and, taking her little ones, had an older son drive them to a neighbor's home twelve miles distant for safety, for the father, David Letts, was then away with a scouting party but returned to his home the night the family left it. Afterward the Letts family were quartered with other settlers in Fort Wilburn. While there Governor Reynolds came to David Letts to ask for a boy to carry a message to intercept a company of moving soldiers. James R. Letts, then eleven years of age, volunteered. His father consented, giving him a swift horse with orders to keep to the open prairie and let no man get within gunshot of him unless he rode a faster horse. The boy made the journey in safety and thus earned his first silver dollar.

With his father James R. Letts attended the first government land sale in Chicago, or Fort Dearborn. The settlers were there to bid in the land they had improved and were living on, David Letts acting as their spokesman. Eastern capitalists were there to outbid them, for the improved land was worth much more than the government price and money was scarce among the settlers. It was a time of intense excitement and the young boy never forgot the struggle of his neighbors to retain their homes. The settlers came with only the government price in their pockets, most of them finding it very hard to raise even that sum. At the sale they scattered through the crowd on guard; when a speculator made a bid on a settler's land the nearest settler would explain: "That is a settler's claim, better take back your bid." If he refused he was surrounded and sometimes roughly handled and his friends took him out a sadder but wiser man. The crier would call out cheerfully, "Make it among yourselves, gentlemen; I will wait on you," showing plainly which party had his sympathy.

James R. Letts began his education in a log schoolhouse in Licking county, Ohio, where the little children sat on benches so high their feet would not touch the floor. A roaring fire in a stone fireplace almost scorched their faces while their backs were cold with the drafts. Later he attended night school on the farm in Illinois and spent one winter at school in Dayton, that state. The boys of the Letts family entered into all the sports of the new country with great zest—fishing, the wolf chase, a deer hunt, the trapping of prairie chickens—all were sources of interest and amusement. As the years went by David Letts added to his agricultural pursuits the mercantile business and established stores both in Dayton and Ottawa. He also served as school commissioner and surveyor, and surveyed, platted and sold lots in the town of Peru for school purposes. In the conduct of his stores he generously trusted friends and neighbors with goods and as hard times set in they were unable to pay and he was forced to close out his business and seek another situation and employment. Accord-

ingly, soon afterward he removed to New Franklin, Missouri, and purchased a fine hotel, which he conducted for some years.

When the stores were disposed of, James R. Letts, then seventeen years of age, was given an outfit of a good team and covered conveyance loaded with goods from the left-over stock, with which he started to the Indian Territory, hoping to dispose of his goods profitably to the Indians. In this undertaking he was successful. His experiences and adventures in crossing the Ozark mountains, fording streams and sojourning with the natives and Indians would make an interesting volume if written in detail. When the goods were sold he disposed of his outfit except one horse, putting the money, all in silver and gold, in his saddle bags, mounted his horse and made his way home. There he remained for a few years, driving his father's fine team and entering into the social life of the country, which was largely settled by old Virginian families who were wealthy slave owners and much given to hospitality and gaiety. There in various ways he began to earn some money and the first hundred dollars which he accumulated he invested in eighty acres of land in Linn county, Missouri. He often related the fact that he assisted in raising the first courthouse at Linneus, the county seat of Linn county, a structure built of logs.

While living in Linn county, he married a young English girl, Hannah Hilton, who had come to the states with an aunt, she being an orphan. She was a faithful wife and helpmeet to him in his pioneer days both in Missouri and Illinois, where he lived later. He was not twenty-one years of age at the time of his marriage. For several years he lived in Missouri and prospered, and then sold his farm and removed to Hill county, Illinois, where he entered land on the site of what is now the town of New Lennox. There his first child, Amanda Annette, was born, the only child of this union. She married Edwin Robinson, of Vinton, Iowa, now deceased.

Mr. Letts followed farming until 1850, when he started on an overland trip to California, being then in poor health. But the outdoor life proved the panacea he needed and when he reached his destination in August, he was brown and well and strong, entering heartily into the mining and rock-washing in order to secure the gold. At the same time he owned an interest in a provision store at the camp. Afterward he spent several months with Hugh Ewing, of Ohio, on his ranch, buying and selling cattle and horses until, satisfied with his venture in new fields, he returned to his Illinois home in the spring of 1851. His experiences as related in a manuscript copy of his trip by land and sea read like a story. He made the return journey by way of the Pacific ocean and the isthmus of Panama. In 1854 he lost his wife. About the same time the Rock Island Railroad had been built through his farm, cutting it in two diagonally, and because his home was broken up he sold the farm and came to Louisa county, Iowa, where his brother Madison had located a few years before. He then purchased land in Grand View township, adjoining his brother's place on the west, and engaged in the cattle business with him for a few years.

On the 3d of March, 1850, Mr. Letts was again married, his second union being with Albina Brockway, a daughter of James M. and Lydia (Goff) Brock-



way, who were natives of New York and pioneers of Pennsylvania and Iowa. They settled in Louisa county in May, 1842, and ten years later removed to Muscatine county. The Brockways were moral and religious people and their influence in this part of the state has been of the best. James Brockway was a leader in good works, in educational and temperance movements and in everything that pertained to good citizenship. The son of a Revolutionary soldier, his wife the granddaughter of one who enlisted in the Colonial army before the Declaration of Independence was written, and discharged after the battle of York, they inherited the qualities on which republics are built and they did their work well. There were nine children born to this union, as follows: Cora E., who married B. F. Marick, a lawyer and immigration inspector of Boston, Massachusetts. Chester H., who was born in 1861, and died at Needles, California, in 1898; Alice Grace, who died in infancy; Ella Elizabeth, who married F. E. McCrary, of Florence, Arizona, a government and humane officer; James D. Letts, a farmer, who married Lillie Runyan; Emery Clinton, a real estate agent, who married Jane Ellen Bushey; Arthur R., a ranchman of Texas, who married Alice Winkler; Fay R., who married Jessie Dickerson; Frank B., a ranchman of Texas, who married Elsie Stapp. Eight children grew to maturity.

Mr. Letts was never identified with any military organizations except at the beginning of the Civil war when he drilled with a company in Grand View. He and his brother Madison were powers in the land at that time in suppressing disloyalty and inspiring patriotism, in aiding the sanitary commission and in looking after the widows and orphans at home. At different times Mr. Letts served his county in minor capacities, on school and election boards, on the petit and grand juries, nearly always serving as chairman of the grand jury. His most important service was in the case of the Air Line Railroad against the county. In 1855 bonds had been issued for the building of the so-called "Air Line Railroad," which, however, was never constructed. When it became known that the project was only an air line, prominent men in the county raised a fund, hired lawyers and succeeded in releasing the county from a part of the obligation. The matter came up for final adjustment while Mr. Letts was a member of the board. He, in common with all honest-minded men of the county, believed it was a gross injustice for the county to be forced to pay for a railroad that was never built. The board, then of twelve men, were a unit on the question and decided to contest the case and refuse to levy the tax, which they did. After giving the United States marshal a great deal of trouble in finding them they were taken to Des Moines before the court and held there until they agreed to levy the tax. The judge said to them: "It is in my power to fine each of you until I impoverish you and send you to jail, but my sympathy is with you; but the bonds have passed into innocent hands and must be paid."

Mr. Letts was ever conscientiously opposed to secret societies, believing that a loyal and just man should let his light shine and do his good work in the sight of the world. In politics he was a stanch and enthusiastic republican,

although he believed the party sometimes made mistakes, yet he believed in righting it from within, instead of without and remained with it. He cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison one month before he attained his majority, and for Fremont in 1856 and never missed casting a ballot at the polls until the last election in November, 1910. His religious views were somewhat peculiar but he was thoroughly orthodox and read his Bible literally, never trying to twist the meaning to suit his own views. Although he was not a member of any church he was an humble and reverent believer and his hope of salvation rested solely on the atonement of our Lord. His religion taught him to be diligent and prompt in business and pitiful to the poor, and while there were older settlers in Louisa county than he there are few early enterprises in which he did not have a hand, for he was public-spirited, benevolent and generous. There were few private or public benefactions but felt the uplift of his generosity. Churches, schools and charities never appealed for aid in vain and his children can point to this or that public edifice and say: "My father gave the first hundred dollars toward erecting that building." He was a strong temperance man, a believer in prohibition but inside the ranks of his party. To him total abstinence and government control of the manufacture of intoxicants was the only way to control this greatest of evils. His best efforts, his time, his purse were devoted to the cause all his years and he was opposed to the use of liquor even in sickness, insisting to the last it was not beneficial. He was a hospitable man with the old-time hospitality of the pioneer days, with the "latch-string out," as he expressed it, always, and a friend or stranger welcomed; a warm reception, a free entertainment, a helping hand when needed made his hospitality a benediction. He always lamented his meager educational advantages and because of his lack in this direction refused often to take responsible positions which others less capable accepted. Young people struggling for an education or a start in the world found in him a sympathetic and helpful friend and so unassuming was he in his beneficences that his best friends knew them not. Verily, his left hand knew not the work of his right.

One who knew Mr. Letts long and well said unsolicited: "In the passing away of James R. Letts, at his home near Letts, December 18, 1910, Iowa has lost one of the most remarkable men that helped to make her early history. It was during the summer of 1855 that the writer, a barefoot boy, first met 'Uncle Jim Letts,' as the neighborhood boys all soon learned to lovingly call him. The first impression he made on my young mind has lasted until now. I have never seen his like and never expect to see it again. Measured by every standard by which man can be measured, he more nearly filled each one than any man I ever knew. Many of the men with whom I have mingled excelled him in special points, but when the average was made they all fell below his mark. He had traveled much before coming to Iowa. He knew how to meet old and young. His neighbors soon learned to believe in him. He was the kind of man that pioneers needed. He knew the prairies and how to select a farm. He knew the value of rotation of crops and tiling. He knew how to make worn out land as rich as virgin soil. He knew the value of groves upon the prairie land. He

knew all this at a time when clover was a stranger here and there was not a spear of blue grass in Louisa county, and much of the now hundred dollar land was listed as 'swamp land.' He planted the first pines in his neighborhood. He built the first modern farm house in Grand View township, and lived in it for fifty-five years. He helped to build the Grand View Academy and many of the churches in Grand View and Letts. He was public-spirited and generous. He was free to give money and advice. He loved society and was the moving spirit in social circles for years. He has probably entertained more people at his home than any man in Louisa county. No person was ever turned away hungry from his door. He probably has stood beside more open graves than any man in Louisa county. He was always active in politics and firm and true in his convictions. He was often urged to represent Louisa county in the legislature but never would consent. Few men have been so much revered by the old and so much loved by the young. He scattered sunshine wherever he went. In the early days that meant much. He would often press a coin into a poor boy's hand. In the early days coins looked bigger to a boy than they do now. Many a man has taken his first ride in a top buggy with Uncle Jim. Top buggies were as scarce then as automobiles are now. Many of the early settlers of Iowa will bow their heads when they read of his death. He was a cattle dealer and traveled far and wide on horseback; no man with whom he ever 'broke bread' could forget him. Those twinkling, honest blue eyes; that ringing voice, his handsome form, graceful carriage, the cut of his clothes, all bespoke a born prince before he had time to say a word. Such a man, coming into a country at such a time, means an epoch in its history. Within a radius of five miles of the beautiful home of James R. Letts, the prairie land of 1855 has been transformed into valuable farms and beautiful homes, such homes as are hard to duplicate within a like area. It sometimes looks as if God spared a few of our friends beyond the allotted time, to teach us how to grow old gracefully. If so, surely James R. Letts has well filled his mission." A pioneer in three states he assisted in laying the foundations of the commonwealth broad and deep and true. Though the worker may be forgotten, the work remains.

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F. B. IDLE.

One of Louisa county's retired agriculturists, who for many years was engaged in general farming and stock raising in Grand View township, is F. B. Idle, a resident of Letts. He was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on the 23d of January, 1843, and is a son of John and Nancy R. (Kiser) Idle, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. The parents were married in Ohio, where the father engaged in farming until 1845, when they came to Iowa, making the long journey across the prairie in wagons. They took up their residence in Muscatine county, where the father filed a claim on eighty acres of land. After erecting a log cabin, which sufficed for a residence for the time being, he

began to break the prairie and place his land under cultivation, making such improvements as he could from time to time. In the spring of 1850 he crossed the plains to California in search of gold, spending two years in prospecting. Upon his return he entered more land, continuing its cultivation until his retirement in 1907. He is now ninety-three years of age and although he rents his land still makes his home on the farm where he has resided for over sixty years. He owns three hundred and forty acres of land, which is well improved, and two hundred of it is under a high state of cultivation. Five children were born to him and his wife, as follows: Louisa, the wife of A. V. Riggs, of Van Buren county; F. B., our subject; Isaiah, who is farming in Kingston, Texas; and two who died in infancy.

Being but two years of age when the family came to Iowa, F. B. Idle has spent practically his entire life in the state where he is now residing and in whose common schools he obtained his education. His boyhood and youth were very similar to those of other lads reared on a farm during pioneer days. While still very young he was assigned light tasks about the farm, which increased in number and responsibility as he grew older, so that by the time he had mastered the rudiments of the common branches of learning he was also well qualified to assist in the cultivation of the fields. He adopted agriculture for his life vocation and met with such success in its pursuit that he is now able to live retired, having sufficient means to provide him with all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

On the 16th of April, 1865, Mr. Idle was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Brumley, who was born in Virginia, and is a daughter of Smith and Lucy A. (Vincent) Brumley. Her parents were also natives of Virginia, in which state they were married, continuing to reside there until 1850, the father being engaged in farming. In that year they came to Iowa, settling in Louisa county, where Mr. Brumley purchased eighty acres of land, which he improved and cultivated until 1864, when he sold his place and bought one hundred and twenty acres elsewhere in this county. Five years afterward he disposed of that place and purchased three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Wapello, one-half of this being under a good state of cultivation and the other half timber. He later disposed of that and went to Kansas, buying one hundred and twenty acres near Pleasanton, where he passed away in 1900, having survived his wife for four years, as her demise occurred in 1902. Nine children were born to them: Mary E., now Mrs. Idle; John L., who is residing in Kansas; Joseph W., who is in the stock business in Whitman, Nebraska; Thomas N., of Fulton, Kansas; Julia A., who died in infancy; Nellie F., the wife of Ambro Hickman, of Batesville, Indiana; Etta V., who married Frank E. Graham, of Wapello; Harvey B., who passed away at the age of thirty-one years; and Effie, the wife of Art E. Barber, of Pleasanton, Kansas.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Idle have been born three daughters and two sons. Clara B., who was given a common-school and musical education, married H. M. Shearer, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and they have nine children, namely: Carl Vernon, Harry Merle and Beatrice Mary, all at home; Frank M., who is married

and resides in Potlatch, Idaho; Monte May and Darlene Marie, at home; one who died in infancy; and Austin Morris and Allen Dale, at home. Newton Idle, the older son of our subject, was also given a common-school education and lives in Boicourt, Kansas. He is married and has five children, Francis, Russell, Floyd, Clara and Vera. Nancy A. is the wife of James Small, a resident of Letts, and they have four children, Arthur, Molly, Alice and Ratio. Lucy R. is the wife of E. S. Rabe, a resident of Letts, and they have one child, Maurice. Oliver I., a resident of Boicourt, Kansas, is married and has four children, Leo, Eugene, John and Erma.

The family were reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members, and fraternally Mr. Idle is affiliated with the Masonic order, being identified with the lodge at Letts. Politically he is a democrat but not having been an office seeker has never prominently participated in township affairs. He is one of the widely known and respected citizens of his community and both he and his wife have many friends of long standing.

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### JAMES H. LETTS.

James H. Letts, the heaviest stock feeder and one of the most extensive landowners of Louisa county, his holdings aggregating fifteen hundred acres, is in possession of one of the best improved farms within its borders. He makes his home in Concord township and is widely recognized as one of the leading and respected residents of the community. His birth occurred in Grand View township, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 27th of April, 1855, his parents being Nehemiah M. and Jane (Holderman) Letts, both of whom were natives of Ohio, the former born in Licking county and the latter in Marion county. They were married near Ottawa, Illinois, and there continued to reside until 1853, when they came west to Louisa county, Iowa, settling in Grand View township. Nehemiah M. Letts there purchased a tract of land comprising three hundred and twenty acres and turned his attention to its further cultivation and improvement. From time to time he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until they embraced two thousand acres of land. In 1882, however, he put aside the active work of the fields and rented his entire farm to his four sons. He likewise owned a tract of ninety-two hundred acres in southwestern Texas and after his retirement spent the winter seasons in that state, returning to Iowa for the summer months. His demise occurred in May, 1894.

Nehemiah M. Letts was married three times, his first union being with a Miss Grove, whom he wedded in Illinois and by whom he had two children, namely: Rowena, who is the widow of E. F. Brockway, and resides in Grand View township; and David G., who passed away in Washington county, Iowa, when forty years of age. Unto Nehemiah M. and Jane (Holderman) Letts were born six children, as follows: William H., who died when forty-nine years of age;

James H., of this review; Hilton M., a heavy landowner residing in Columbus City, Iowa, whose demise occurred in 1911; Emma S., the wife of John Waters, of Santa Cruz, California; Noah R., who is a resident of Letts, Iowa; and Emery, who died in infancy. The wife and mother passed away in 1863, and two years later Mr. Letts married Mrs. Adelia Sawyer, a native of Rochester, New York.

James H. Letts enjoyed the advantages of a high school education and also attended college for one year. When twenty-one years of age he started out as an agriculturist on his own account and has since been busily engaged in the same occupation.

On the 1st of March, 1877, Mr. Letts was married to Miss Mary M. Hendrics, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, February 1, 1855, her parents being Henry and Margaret (Dinwiddie) Hendrics, of Ohio and Kentucky respectively. Mr. Hendrics was twice married, his first wife being Theodosia Willits. To them seven children were born, four of whom are living: William Hendrics, residing near Letts, Iowa; Mrs. Ellen Wagner, of Ashland, Oregon; Ira Hendrics, of Avalon, Missouri; and Mrs. Melissa Long, of Pittsburg, Pa. In the '40s Mr. and Mrs. Hendrics took up their abode among the pioneers of Muscatine county, Iowa, where he operated a farm during the remainder of his life time. His wife died in 1848. In 1850 Mr. Hendrics was united in marriage to Margaret Dinwiddie Whitacer, and to them three children were born, but Mrs. Letts is the only one living. Mr. Hendrics was called to his final rest in May, 1893. His wife died in October, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Letts have three children. Vinnie D. is a graduate of three colleges, the Western Preparatory College of Oxford, Ohio, the College of Liberal Arts of Oberlin, Ohio, and College of Oratory, Cornell, Iowa. In 1908 she gave her hand in marriage to Clyde Turkington, of Loveland, Colorado. Adelia P., the second daughter, is also a graduate of the Western Preparatory College, of Oxford, Ohio, and later was a student in Oberlin College. Harland D. is a graduate of Cornell College Preparatory and also spent two years in collegiate work there. At present he is a student in the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Letts is a stanch republican in politics but has never sought office as a reward for his party fealty. In the county where his entire life has been spent he is widely and favorably known.

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### LEWIS LIEBERKNECHT.

The subject of this sketch was born in Louisa county, his natal day being the 20th of November, 1856, and his parents Nicholas and Catherine (Raebold) Lieberknecht. His parents were born, reared and married in Germany, from which country they emigrated to the United States in 1841. Upon their arrival they located in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where they remained for ten



years, and then came to Louisa county, Iowa, making the journey by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Muscatine. Mr. Lieberknecht immediately invested in land, which was practically unimproved with the exception of a log house, which for several years thereafter the family occupied. At odd times, when not occupied with the work of the farm, he followed his trade, which was that of shoemaking. By means of thrift, hard work and close application he had acquired eight hundred acres of land when he passed away. His property was well improved and two-thirds of it under a high state of cultivation. In his family were the following children: Jacob and John, both of whom are deceased; Henry; William; Lewis; Benjamin, deceased; and Margaret and Mary, both also deceased, the former the wife of Nicholas Lang and the latter of Christ Werner. The father passed away in 1872, but the mother survived until 1901, her demise occurring in March.

The early life of Lewis Lieberknecht was very similar to those of the sons of other pioneers. Reared on the home farm he was trained in the habits of thrift, industry and tenacity of purpose which characterizes the Teutonic races, thus laying the foundation for a useful career and good member of society. In the acquirement of his education he attended the schools in the vicinity of his home, which at that time contained in their curriculum little more than the common branches. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he left home to begin his independent career as an agriculturist. While working for his father he had acquired one hundred acres of land, upon which he settled, continuing its cultivation for several years. Subsequently he disposed of this property and purchased two hundred and seventy-three acres of his present homestead, upon which he has wrought extensive improvements during the period of his occupancy. Mr. Lieberknecht possesses the sagacity, foresight and perseverance essential to success in any vocation. These qualities have all been freely exercised in the direction of his affairs and as a result he has acquired eight hundred and forty acres of land in Louisa county. Five hundred acres of this property is under a high state of cultivation, well improved and carefully kept up. His success, Mr. Lieberknecht attributes to the fact that he has always been an extensive stockman as well as a general farmer. In addition to his extensive realty holdings he was one of the organizers of the Grand View Savings Bank, of which institution he has been the chief executive ever since it was founded.

Mr. Lieberknecht married Miss Anna Crow on the 15th of January, 1891. She was a native of Port Louisa township, her birth having occurred in 1859, and a daughter of George H. and Eliza (Ronald) Crow. Her parents removed from Ohio to Illinois during pioneer days, and came from the latter state to Louisa county in 1836. They located on a farm and from then until his death, which occurred in 1876, Mr. Crow was identified with agricultural pursuits. Of the eight children in his family five are living: Harvey and Gavin, both residents of Louisa county; George, who is living in Cedar county, Iowa; Mattie C., the wife of A. Latta, of Kansas City; and Belle, who married E. Herdman, of San Francisco, California. Those deceased are: Anna, who became

Mrs. Lieberknecht and passed away on the 4th of December, 1909, being laid to rest at Colorado Springs; and Mary and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Lieberknecht had one daughter and two sons: Ina, born in October, 1893; Scott L., born in December, 1895; and Donald G., born in September, 1897.

Mr. Lieberknecht is now making his home temporarily in Colorado Springs but still retains his business interests in Iowa. In matters religious both he and his family affiliate with the Congregational church, but his wife was a member of the United Presbyterian church. His relations in life, both public and private, have always been guided by the principles inculcated in him when a youth and which enabled him to lay a foundation for his career that led to prosperity and usefulness.

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### THOMAS J. OCHILTREE.

One of the best known men in Morning Sun is Thomas J. Ochiltree, who for nearly fifty years has been identified with the commercial activities of that city, during eighteen of which he has been postmaster. He was born in Louisa county on the 1st of June, 1842, and is a son of Henry M. and Margaret Ochiltree. The father, who was born on the 9th of February, 1809, was a native of Virginia, while the mother, whose natal day was the 10th of October, 1815, came from South Carolina. Henry M. Ochiltree, who was of Scotch extraction, removed to Ohio in the early '30s and continued to reside there until 1836, in which year he came to Iowa, where he entered a tract of government land. After having made the necessary improvements upon his property he returned to Ohio, where he was married on the 4th of January, 1838. Immediately afterward he and his bride started west, beginning their domestic life in this state in a log cabin with a clapboard roof and a puncheon floor. This continued to be their home for nine years, but success attended the efforts of Mr. Ochiltree who at one time owned one thousand acres of land in this county. Nine children were born to them, three of whom are still living: Thomas J.; Marshall; and Henry M., who is living in Haddam, Kansas. The father passed away on the 5th of September, 1877, but the mother survived until the 30th of October, 1887, both being laid to rest in the cemetery of Morning Sun. Mr. Ochiltree always took an active interest in political affairs and gave his support to the republican candidates. Both he and his wife were affiliated with the United Presbyterian church, of which for many years Mr. Ochiltree was an elder.

Reared on the farm on which he was born, Thomas J. Ochiltree acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of his native county, this being later supplemented by a collegiate course. He remained a member of the parental household until he was of age, and on the 1st of the July following he enlisted in Company M, Eighth Iowa Cavalry, and went to the front in defense of the Union. He remained in service during the entire period of the Civil



war, during which time he participated in many notable battles but was never wounded. On the 1st of January, 1866, he was mustered out and, returning to Louisa county, he engaged in agricultural pursuits for two years. At the expiration of that period he became associated with his father and brother Marshall in the grain and lumber business in Morning Sun. This connection continued until 1873 when Mr. Ochiltree bought the interest of his father and brother and continued the business alone until 1910, at which time he withdrew from commercial activities.

The marriage of Mr. Ochiltree and Miss Elizabeth Brown, also a native of Louisa county, was celebrated on the 27th of June, 1869. Mrs. Ochiltree is a daughter of J. C. and Mary J. Brown. Her mother has now passed away but her father is still living and continues to be a resident of Morning Sun. Five children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Ochiltree, in order of birth as follows: Stanley; Jennie, who became the wife of A. J. Pooley, of Chicago; William T., who is in the United States army, now stationed in the Philippines; and two who are deceased.

Mr. Ochiltree, who has always been an ardent republican, takes a prominent part in municipal affairs. He served as mayor of the town for four terms, and he has been a member of the school board for twenty-eight consecutive years, during the past fifteen of which he has been president. Eighteen years ago he received the appointment of postmaster of Morning Sun, of which office he has ever since been the incumbent. Both he and his wife are affiliated with the Presbyterian church, in the work of which they always take an active and earnest interest. In addition to his pleasant residence in Morning Sun Mr. Ochiltree owns one hundred and sixty acres of farm land in Canada and is regarded as one of the substantial residents of the town. Always affable and courteous in all of the relations of life, he has a wide circle of friends who hold him in high esteem.

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### CHARLES J. BOLLENBACH.

Charles J. Bollenbach, who for fifteen years was engaged in blacksmithing in Columbus Junction, was born in Lake county, Illinois, on the 24th of September, 1871, his parents being Charles and Barbara (Wenegar) Bollenbach, natives of Germany. The father came to America when a lad of fourteen years with his parents, who located in Cook county, Illinois. There he followed his trade, which was blacksmithing, and from there removed to Lake county, Illinois, where he engaged in business for himself. In 1900 he removed to Arlington, Illinois, where he and his wife continue to reside. He volunteered for service in the Union army in place of a brother who was drafted, and served one year with the Fifty-first Illinois Regiment. He had eight children, as follows: Louie, of Deland, Illinois; Charles J., our subject; Edward, who is living in Tampico, Illinois; Erma, a resident of Arlington Heights, Illinois; Wil-

liam, deceased; twins, one of whom died in infancy, while Almon, the other, is now deceased; and Clara, at home.

After finishing his education, which was acquired in the common schools of Illinois, Charles J. Bollenbach learned horse-shoeing. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, following which he went to Chicago, where he worked at his trade for a year. At the expiration of that period he went to Erie, Illinois, where he remained a similar time, and then removed to Hooppole, Illinois, where he opened a shop, which he conducted for three years. Disposing of his business at the end of that time he came to Columbus Junction. In 1895 he bought out J. R. Davis, who was running a general blacksmithing and horse-shoeing establishment. He lost this place by fire at the end of eight months, following which he bought a lot and built a shop, which he conducted for fifteen years, but in October, 1910, he closed out his business. In 1909 he purchased two lots on which is situated a nice two-story eight-room residence, which is his present home.

On the 24th of September, 1895, Mr. Bollenbach was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Clementz, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Vogel) Clementz, who were the parents of eight children, as follows: Anna, who became Mrs. Bollenbach; William, a resident of Henry county, Illinois; Bertha, the wife of Edward Bollenbach of Tampico, Illinois; Martha, who married T. F. Castle, of Kansas City, Kansas; Josephine, the wife of Allan Mathis, of Henry county, Illinois; Catharine, and Fred, both of whom are at home; and John, who is deceased. The parents were both natives of Illinois, in which state the father still resides, but the mother passed away on the 20th of September, 1893. For his first wife Mr. Clementz chose Miss Louisa Grose, and to them were born two children: Frank, who is living in St. James, Missouri; and Dora, the wife of August Seyller, of Henry county, Illinois.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bollenbach: Laurene, who was born on the 20th of May, 1901; and Laverne, whose birth occurred on the 9th of June, 1904. The wife and mother passed away May 16, 1911, and was buried at Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Mr. Bollenbach's fraternal relations are confined to membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while the religious affiliation of the family is with the Reformed church. He votes with the republican party and is now and has been for some time a member of the city council.

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### H. O. WEAVER.

H. O. Weaver, of Wapello, collector of United States internal revenue of the fourth district of Iowa and prominent also as a lawyer and business man, was born on a farm in Marshall township, Louisa county, April 20, 1866. He is a son of Erastus Weaver, who was born at Providence, Rhode Island, September

30, 1815, and in 1830 went to Wisconsin where he spent ten years. He arrived in Louisa county in 1846 and began farming on one hundred and sixty acres in Elm Grove township. On December 29, 1847, he was married to Miss Mary Elizabeth Marshall. In 1861 Mr. Weaver enlisted in the cause of the Union in Company C, Sixteenth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers, and valiantly performed his duty at the front for four long years. After the close of the war he received his honorable discharge and returned to the peaceful vocation of farming in which he met with a goodly measure of success. Upon retiring from active labor he settled in Cairo, Marshall township, where he died at the age of eighty-nine years, having long been recognized as one of the most valued citizens of the county.

Mrs. Weaver, mother of our subject, was born near Xenia, Ohio, April 30, 1829, and came west with her father, John Marshall, and family in 1838 to the great new section that had been opened up to settlement through the Black Hawk purchase some few years previously. John Marshall settled in the township which now bears his name and here his daughter Mary was reared. She bravely met the arduous struggles incident to the pioneer times, not the least of which was the taking care of a family of small children while the husband and father served his country upon southern battlefields during the Civil war, and the mother love with which she encompassed her little flock gave them a feeling of security in the years of their youth that contributed in a great measure toward making them self-reliant men and women. She delighted to recall to mind the early incidents of pioneer life and she never forgot her early neighbors and friends. She was a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal church which was organized in 1859 at Prairie Chapel, in Marshall township, and was ever fearless in her devotion to what she believed to be just and right. She died November 16, 1898, after having been an invalid for more than five years. She was laid to rest in Fulton cemetery beside her parents and many friends who had gone before, and in her passing the community lost one of the strong ties that linked the pioneer past with the progressive present. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, namely: Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Reese Sellers; Laura and Annie, both of whom died in infancy; Emily F., the wife of Dr. W. H. Darrow, of Columbus Junction; Lucy, the wife of E. S. Briggs, of Louisa county; Clara, who resides at Morning Sun and is the wife of Dr. C. B. Allen; H. O., of this review; Henrietta, the wife of August Salmon, of Columbus Junction; and Alice, who died in infancy.

H. O. Weaver attended the district schools during the years of his boyhood and youth and assisted his father upon the home farm during the periods of vacation, thus laying the foundation for a good constitution which has been of great advantage to him in his contact with the world. At the age of eighteen he entered the Eastern Iowa Normal School at Columbus Junction where he continued for one year. He then taught school for a short time in Muscatine county, after which he entered the State University at Iowa City. He spent five years at this institution, graduating from the literary department with the degree of A. B. in 1891, and from the law department with the degree of LL. B.

in 1892. Immediately after leaving the university he began practice at Wapello and has since maintained an office here. From the beginning he showed a zeal and ability that gave brilliant promise as to his future, and time has shown that he made no mistake in the selection of a calling, as he soon reached a position as a leading lawyer of the county.

He has been an active worker in behalf of the republican party and in 1894 was elected to the state legislature and after serving for two years was again elected in 1896, also taking part in the proceedings of the extra session. For three years he filled the office of chairman of the republican state central committee. As a campaign speaker he made a tour of the state in behalf of Governor Shaw and President McKinley and gained high standing as a forceful and convincing speaker. In July, 1902, he was appointed by President Roosevelt as collector of revenue for the fourth district of Iowa with headquarters at Burlington and is still holding the office, having been reappointed by President Taft. He is well known in business circles and is a large stockholder of the Wapello State Savings Bank of Wapello.

On the 7th of October, 1896, Mr. Weaver was married to Miss Alma Neuse, a daughter of George R. and Clara (Slattery) Neuse. Two children have been born of this union: Mary Frances, who died when six years of age; and William Otis, now aged two years. Mr. Weaver has always been actuated by principles of the highest honor and has never taken undue advantage of an opponent in his legal practice or sought to advance a cause by unworthy means. Fearless in defense of his honest convictions, he has for years been an acknowledged leader in this part of the state and has won the respect even of his bitterest political adversaries. No one more willingly accepts responsibilities to which he is called or discharges them more faithfully. Ever since he reached maturity he has been identified with the best interests of the county. He and his wife are prominent in social circles and their home is a center of warm-hearted and generous hospitality. Fraternally he is a valued member of the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of America.

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### WILLIAM CUTCOME.

The late William Cutcome, who was engaged in the mercantile business in Columbus Junction, was born in Prussia, Germany, on the 11th of December, 1841, and was brought to America when a lad of but four or five years by his parents, who first located in Pennsylvania, from which state they later removed to Muscatine, Iowa.

William Cutcome was reared and educated in the country of his adoption and for four years subsequent to his marriage engaged in farming. He withdrew from that occupation to become identified with mercantile business, which vocation he continued to follow. When the call came for men in 1861, he volunteered as a private in Company D, Thirty-fifth Iowa Volunteers, and saw much

active service, participating in the battle of Island No. 10, and the siege of Vicksburg and Jackson. He was discharged on account of sickness at Mobile, Alabama, in 1865, at which time he weighed but ninety pounds.

On the 22d of February, 1866, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Cutcome and Miss Rosanna Dix, a daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Williams) Dix, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. Mr. Dix was one of the first Masons in this county and was the first to be buried with Knight Templar honors. He had four children: Paulina Jane, the wife of James Payton, of Miami, Oklahoma; Rosanna, now Mrs. Cutcome; Adelia, who married Homer Darrow, of Denver, Colorado; and Nancy, the wife of James Costa, of Anthony, Kansas.

By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cutcome were born six children: William, who was born in November, 1867, and is now deceased; Louisa, the wife of Isaac Stone, of Wellings, Colorado; and Curtis, Mose and Albert, all of whom are deceased; and Ralph, who died September 21, 1911.

Mr. Cutcome voted the democratic ticket. He was always interested in all matters pertaining to the war and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic through the medium of which organization he maintained relations with his old army comrades. His demise occurred on the 30th of December, 1909, shortly after he had passed the sixty-eighth anniversary of his birth. His wife is a consistent member of the Reformed church.

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#### FRANCIS M. DUNCAN.

A representative of one of the pioneer families of Louisa county is Francis M. Duncan, who for more than fifty years was identified with the agricultural development of Union township. He was born in Monroe county, Tennessee, on the 8th of July, 1838, and is a son of John and Rachel G. (Duncan) Duncan, natives of Tennessee, but the father was of Irish extraction his father having come from the Emerald isle. The family removed to Iowa from Tennessee in 1846, arriving in Louisa county on the 10th of May. They settled in the vicinity of Columbus Junction, where John Duncan purchased two hundred acres of land. Later he added to this another ninety acres, continuing to reside there until he passed away at the age of seventy-five years. The demise of the mother occurred in 1864, at the age of fifty-five. In their family were ten children, namely: Mary, Joseph C., James C. and Nancy, all of whom are deceased; Francis M., our subject; James M., who is deceased; John Calvin, who is a resident of Columbus City; Nelson, living in the same place; and Caroline and Madison Blair, both deceased.

As he was only a lad of seven years when the family settled in Louisa county Francis M. Duncan has spent practically his entire life in this county, in the district schools of which he received his education. After leaving school he assisted his father on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he rented the

homestead for a year. At the expiration of that time he accepted a position as salesman of agricultural implements for a house in Galesburg, Illinois. He traveled through that state for this company for three years and then, returning to Iowa, he bought two hundred and forty acres of prairie land in Washington county. Disposing of this in 1863, after he had started improvements and had about forty acres of the land broken, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Union township, Louisa county. He added to his holdings from time to time as he was able until he acquired three hundred and twenty-five acres of fertile land, all of which he brought to a high state of cultivation. In connection with the cultivation of his fields he made a specialty of feeding and shipping cattle until the spring of 1911. He has now rented his land, although he continues to live on the place, having just completed a new two and a half story frame residence which he now occupies. His farm is one of the well improved and carefully kept places of the township, as well as one of the most valuable properties.

On the 13th of October, 1864, Mr. Duncan was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sands, a daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Sands. To them were born the following children: Joseph C., who is a resident of Columbus Junction; Melvin, deceased; William Nelson, living in Union township; Ida L., the wife of Harry Edwards, of Union township; Reuben Harrison, also a resident of Louisa county; Francis M., who lives in Columbus Junction; Earl, deceased; and Jesse, at home.

The family were reared in the faith of the United Presbyterian church, of which the parents are members, while in matters political Mr. Duncan is a republican. He has always taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the common welfare and served in the various township offices. During the long period of his residence in the community he has established and maintained a reputation for reliability and trustworthiness in all business transactions and is esteemed accordingly.

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#### LINCOLN U. GIPPLE.

A well known representative of the commercial interests in Letts is Lincoln U. Gipple, who for the past nineteen years has been conducting a drug store here. A native of Louisa county, his natal day was the 3d of March, 1866, and his parents were George W. and Mary (Brooks) Gipple, both of whom were born in the vicinity of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and there they were married. They began their domestic life on a farm in their native state, where they resided until 1852, when they came to Iowa. Upon their arrival in Louisa county, they rented a farm, which Mr. Gipple cultivated for several years, and then bought land in Grand View township. Later he sold this and bought a farm in Cedar township, Muscatine county, which he operated until his retirement in 1888, at which time he owned one hundred and twenty acres of finely



improved land. When they left the farm Mr. and Mrs. Gipple located in Letts, where they continue to reside. They are the parents of eight children: Emma, the wife of Mark Sharp, of Falls City, Nebraska; Annie, who married Lee Hudler, of South Dakota; Cynthia, the wife of A. H. Dollahide, of Audubon, Iowa; Charles W., who is living on the old homestead; Edward B., residing in the vicinity of Winfield, Iowa; H. W., who lives in Bentonville, Arkansas; Carrie, who married J. O. Holtz, of Sweetland, Muscatine county; and Lincoln U.

The early life of Lincoln U. Gipple was spent on the farm where he was born, while in the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools of Louisa county. He began his business career at the age of twenty-six years, at which time he became associated with a friend in the drug business. Three years later he purchased the interest of his partner and has ever since been conducting the store alone. In addition to this he is also one of the owners of the Letts button factory, which is proving to be a very successful venture, and is a stockholder and director of the Citizens Savings Bank.

Mr. Gipple was married on the 14th of June, 1894, to Miss Alice Kerr, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 8th of October, 1871. She is the only daughter of the late David and Mary (Williams) Kerr. Her father was a native of Ohio and her mother of Indiana, but they were married in Muscatine. Mr. Kerr was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred in 1885. Since his death Mrs. Kerr, who is now fifty-three years of age, has made her home in Letts. Unto them were born three children, the elder of the two sons being Frank, a resident of Kinross, Iowa, while the second born, Walter, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Gipple have three children: Vivian, born on the 22d of February, 1895, who is a graduate of the high school and has also had a musical education; Orval, who was born on the 13th of March, 1898; and Weldon, whose birth occurred on the 17th of August, 1899.

The family affiliate with the United Brethren church, of which the parents are members, and fraternally Mr. Gipple is identified with the Masonic order, holding membership in Letts Lodge, No. 245, A. F. & A. M., and also with Letts Lodge, No. 671, I. O. O. F. He votes with the republican party but never participates in municipal affairs, concentrating his entire time and attention upon the development of his business interests.

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#### DAVID E. STRAWHACKER.

David E. Strawhacker, who has lived retired in Oakville for the past two years, was formerly identified with agricultural interests as a farmer and stock-raiser and now owns from six to seven hundred acres of valuable land in Louisa county and more than eleven hundred acres in North Dakota. His birth occurred in Pennsylvania on the 4th of February, 1860, his parents being Benjamin and

Mary Ann (Miller) Strawhacker, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state. Leaving Pennsylvania, they took up their abode on a farm near Millersburg, Mercer county, Illinois. Benjamin Strawhacker, who was a blacksmith by trade, worked at that occupation and also at farming until 1886, when he came to Louisa county, Iowa, where his demise occurred on the 7th of March, 1893. His widow, who makes her home in this county, has attained the age of eighty-one years. Unto them were born seven children, as follows: John Ambrose, who is a resident of New Boston, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of J. R. Minor, of Louisa county; William Jefferson, who makes his home in North Dakota; James P., who is deceased; David E., of this review; Henry E., likewise living in North Dakota; and Rose E., the wife of Victor Swafford, of Morning Sun, Iowa.

When a young man of twenty years David E. Strawhacker started out in life on his own account as an agriculturist, renting an Illinois farm of three hundred and twenty acres in association with his brother and devoting his attention to its operation for two years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty-five acres, owning and operating the farm for ten years. Disposing of the property, he embarked in business at New Boston, Illinois, where he remained for three years and then sold out. Subsequently he bought over four hundred acres of land and was busily engaged in its further cultivation and improvement until 1893, when he sold the property and came to Louisa county, here also purchasing a tract of four hundred acres. As time passed he augmented his holdings by additional purchase until he now owns from six to seven hundred acres of rich and productive land in Louisa county as well as over eleven hundred acres in North Dakota. In 1909 he left the farm and took up his abode in Oakville, purchasing a valuable tract of land of seven and a quarter acres and erecting thereon an elegant two-story residence. His home is equipped with an individual light plant and is up-to-date and modern in every respect. He is now serving as a director and vice president of the Farmers Bank of Oakville and also of the Farmers Grain Company of the same place.

Mr. Strawhacker has been married twice. On the 30th of December, 1886, he wedded Miss Lilly Smith, by whom he had two children: Edna May, the wife of R. R. Severly, of Louisa county; and Eva Lena, the wife of Andrew Ellsworth, of this county. The wife and mother passed away on the 22d of March, 1890, and on the 19th of December, 1894, Mr. Strawhacker was again married, his second union being with Miss Emerance Herr, a daughter of Gregor and Augusta Herr, both of whom were natives of Germany. Emigrating to the United States, they took up their abode in Louisa county, Iowa, Mr. Herr here becoming identified with general agricultural pursuits. He still makes his home in this county but his wife is no longer living. They were the parents of five children, namely: Joseph, who is a resident of Hamilton, Iowa; George, who died in infancy; Mrs. Strawhacker; Sophia, the wife of Frank Searls, of Oakville; and Anna, the wife of Harry Munson. Unto our subject and his second wife were born eight children, as follows: Emery G., and Emma, who



died in infancy; Marshall, who is a resident of Oakville; Frank H., who has passed away; and Cleo Irene, Mark C., Paul D. and Roy B., all at home.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Strawhacker has supported the men and measures of the democracy. He is now serving as a township trustee and has held other minor positions, ever discharging his official duties in a most prompt and able manner. For ten years he was school director while living in the country. In religious faith he is a Methodist, while his wife is a devoted communicant of the Catholic church. In all relations of life in which he is found, whether social, business or public, he has been true to high principles of manhood and his salient characteristics are such as have won for him the honor, respect and good will of his fellowmen.

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### JOHN H. COLLINS.

John H. Collins, who has been a resident of Letts for seventeen years, was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 13th of October, 1859, and is a son of Harris and Sarah (Denham) Collins. The parents were both natives of Ohio but were married in Muscatine county, where the father engaged in farming until the Civil war. He enlisted as a private in 1861 and went to the front with Company A, Eleventh Iowa Infantry. At the battle of Shiloh, on the 6th of April, 1862, he was wounded and on the 6th of the following May passed away. He had two children: Lola M., who has never married and lives at Muscatine; and John H., our subject. In 1866 the mother was again married, her second husband being William Hart, a native of Pennsylvania, by whom she had four children, as follows: Jeannette, Effie and Stella, twins, and Burton, all of whom are unmarried and living at home. Mr. Hart died in 1881, at the age of sixty-one years, but his wife, who is now seventy-six, is living and continues to make her home in Muscatine.

The early life of John H. Collins was spent in his native county, in whose common schools he was educated. At the age of twenty-three years he became identified with the monument business and after following that vocation for twelve years he came to Letts and went into business for himself. He also has an undertaking establishment, the only one in the town, which he has been successfully conducting for sixteen years. Mr. Collins has met with success in his work and in connection with his other enterprises he is also acting as manager and secretary of the Independent Pearl Button Factory of Letts.

Mr. Collins was united in marriage on the 24th of October, 1883, with Miss Maggie Flanigan, who was born in Illinois on the 16th of August, 1859. She is of Irish extraction, her parents, Edward and Mary (Smith) Flanigan, having been natives of the Emerald isle. They were married in New York and subsequently came to the west, locating in Illinois, where they resided at the time of their death. The mother passed away in 1864, but the father survived

until 1880. Two daughters were born unto them of whom Mrs. Collins is the elder and the only one surviving, Mary having died at the age of two years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Collins seven children have been born, as follows: Bert H., born on the 7th of November 1884; Edward H., born on the 27th of April, 1887; Lola M., born on the 18th of August, 1889, who received a musical education and has been teaching school for four years; John Arden, born on the 3d of August, 1892; Clifford H., born on the 14th of May, 1894; William Fay, born September 19, 1896; and Kenneth Earrol, who was born May 13, 1898, and passed away at the age of seven months.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members. Mr. Collins has attained high rank in the Masonic fraternity, being affiliated with the Knights Templars of Muscatine and he also belongs to the Mystic Shrine, being identified with Kauba Temple, Davenport, Iowa. In addition to his connection with this fraternity he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America of Letts. His political support is given the candidates of the republican party but never having been an aspirant for office he does not actively participate in public affairs. He is one of the enterprising and successful citizens of the town and in addition to his various business interests he owns a very pleasant residence, the hospitality of which is graciously extended to the friends of the family.

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#### H. N. MATTHEWS.

H. N. Matthews, one of the leading and respected citizens of Louisa county, is a retired agriculturist residing in Oakville, which town he is now serving in the capacity of mayor. His birth occurred in Jefferson township, this county, on the 17th of August, 1842, his parents being Solomon B. and Emily M. (Bras) Matthews, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father came to Louisa county in 1836, settling in Port Louisa township, where he worked as a millwright. Subsequently he took up his abode in Tollsboro, there opening a saw-mill and gristmill. In 1849 he made his way to California by ox team, returning to this state in 1852 and passing away the same year. His wife was called to her final rest in 1883. Their children were two in number, namely: H. N., of this review; and Homer A., who is a resident of Toolsboro, Iowa.

H. N. Matthews began earning his own livelihood as a boy and has been independent upon his own resources ever since. In 1862 he volunteered for service with the First Missouri Engineers, being honorably discharged on the expiration of his term in 1864. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and Atlanta. On returning to Louisa county he took up the pursuits of farming and stockraising, meeting with a gratifying measure of success in his undertakings as an agriculturist. In 1907 he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Oakville, where he has since lived retired in his beautiful two-story residence.

On the 8th of February, 1870, Mr. Matthews was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Brown, a daughter of John and Anna (Daniels) Brown, both of whom were natives of Ohio and are now deceased. They were the parents of the following children: Benjamin, who has passed away; Benjamin, who is a resident of Wapello township; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Speck of Vici, Oklahoma; Peter, living in Alaska; Samuel, who is deceased; Nancy, the wife of James P. Courtney, of Louisa county; David, who makes his home in Cairo, Iowa; Mrs. Matthews; Emmett, who has passed away; and three who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews had four children: Emily A., who died in infancy; Solomon, now living near Wapello, Iowa; Charles F., of Oakville, Iowa; and Fannie, the wife of J. A. Williams of Oakville.

In politics Mr. Matthews is a staunch republican and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to various positions of public trust. He has held all of the township offices, served as deputy sheriff for one year and is the present mayor of Oakville, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many measures of reform and improvement. The Spiritualist church numbers him among its valued members. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. His entire life has been spent in Louisa county and he has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of its most prominent and esteemed citizens.

#### J. A. PORTER.

J. A. Porter, who owns a fine farm property of one hundred acres in Elm Grove township which he is cultivating, was born in Louisa county on the 5th of February, 1857. He is a son of Hugh and Lydia (Maloney) Porter, both natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to the United States. Upon his arrival in this country Mr. Porter first located in New York, where he remained for fourteen years, and at the expiration of that period he came to Louisa county, in April, 1855, buying eighty acres of land, which he cultivated with increasing success, and thus adding to his holdings from time to time until when he died he owned four hundred and eleven acres of fertile land. His demise occurred on the 10th of January, 1895, many years after that of his wife, who passed away on the 12th of June, 1879. Eight children were born to them in the following order: Isaac T., a resident of South Dakota; J. A. Porter, our subject; Annie, the wife of R. H. Wheeler, of Louisa county; John D., who lives in Orange, California; and Isabel, James, Mary and an infant, the eldest of the family, all deceased.

The boyhood and youth of J. A. Porter were spent in a manner very similar to those of the majority of farmer lads. He attended the common schools in the acquirement of his education, while such time as he was not there engaged was very largely given to assisting with the work of the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he left the parental roof and began working for himself.

For a time he followed farming but later worked at the carpenter's trade for three years. At the end of that time he bought one hundred acres of land on sections 29 and 21, Elm Grove township, upon which he has since continuously resided. He has erected a fine residence, barns and outbuildings during the period of his residence, all of which have been constructed with due regard for the purpose they were to serve as well as for appearance. Here he engages in stock-raising in addition to the cultivation of his fields, and his efforts in both directions are meeting with success.

On the 31st of December, 1885, Mr. Porter's plans for a home of his own had their culmination in his marriage to Miss Olive C. Thompson. She is a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Willis) Thompson, to whom were born ten children: Mary Harkness, who is a resident of Creston, Iowa; a daughter who died in infancy; Nancy J., the wife of J. H. Armstrong, of Texas; Robert N., deceased; William L., a resident of Central Point, Oregon; Ella, the wife of Dr. Grimes, of Wapello; Lois, who married W. D. Garmoe, of Winfield, Iowa; Olive and Oliver, twins, the former now Mrs. Porter and the latter a resident of Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Jay F., who is living in Wellington, Kansas.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Porter has been blessed by three daughters: Frances, who was graduated from the Washington Academy in 1905 and is now teaching school; Mary L., who will graduate from the Washington high school with the class of 1912; and Hazel E., who is at home.

The religious faith of the family is manifested through their affiliation with the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Porter casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party. He meets the requirements of good citizenship by assisting in the administration of local government and has held several township offices. A man of determination and purpose, he is meeting with success in the direction of his interests and is known as one of the prosperous farmers of Elm Grove township, among whose citizens both he and his family are held in high regard.

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#### WILLIAM T. BROWN.

William T. Brown, who has been engaged in the drug business in Columbus Junction for nineteen years, was born in Columbus City, Iowa, on the 16th of January, 1866. He is a son of the late Dr. I. C. and Ruth Ann (Hamlet) Brown, natives of Philadelphia, Tennessee, and Plainfield, Indiana, respectively. The father passed away in 1900, at the age of sixty-five years, and the mother survived him until 1909, her demise occurring in October, that year. Dr. Brown attended Maryville College, Tennessee, and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He practiced one year at Philadelphia, Tennessee, but in the spring of 1863 he removed to Danville, Indiana, where he was married, and in January, 1864, removed to Columbus City, Iowa, where he practiced for two years and then removed to Old Clifton.

After residing there for ten years he came to Columbus Junction, where he remained until his demise. In his family were four children, one daughter and three sons, in order of birth as follows: Octavia Jane, who became the wife of W. F. Hall, of Columbus Junction; William Thomas, our subject; Harry L., who is engaged in the drug business in Des Moines, Iowa; and Hadley S., a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, who is now engaged in the practice of medicine in Oklahoma.

The education of William T. Brown, which was begun in the schools of Columbus City, was completed in the high school of Columbus Junction. At the age of eighteen years he began his business career by accepting a position on the railroad and for seven years thereafter he continued to be identified with that vocation. In 1892 he became associated with his brother, H. L. Brown, and W. F. Hall in the drug business at Columbus Junction. This partnership existed for three years, at the expiration of which period Brown Brothers bought out the interest of Mr. Hall, and in 1903 our subject became sole proprietor and since continued the business alone. He has met with very good success in his undertaking and now owns one of the finest stores in the town and enjoys an excellent patronage.

Mr. Brown was united in marriage on the 27th of April, 1893, to Miss Bina Barringer, a daughter of S. E. and Mary (Stark) Barringer. Her father has passed away but her mother is still living and continues to make her home in Columbus Junction. Mr. and Mrs. Barringer had three daughters, as follows: Blanche, the deceased wife of Alvin Simons; Belle, who became the wife of Ab Sherridan, of Columbus Junction; and Bina, now Mrs. Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have two sons and two daughters, as follows: Egbert DeWayne, who was born on the 15th of June, 1894; Helen Lenore, born on the 20th of December, 1895; Ruth Ann, whose birth occurred on the 15th of February, 1898; and William Thomas, Jr., who was born on the 16th of July, 1901.

Fraternally Mr. Brown is affiliated with the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. His political support he gives to the republican party and despite the exactions of a large business he has time to share the responsibilities of municipal government. He served two years as town clerk. Energetic and progressive in his business methods, public-spirited in his citizenship, and loyal in his private relations, Mr. Brown is one of the highly esteemed men of Columbus Junction.

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#### B. P. SHAVER.

B. P. Shaver, of Columbus Junction, who engaged for a number of years in farming and is now gaining prominence as a manufacturer, builder and contractor, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, June 9, 1861. He is a son of Daniel K. and Adaline (Donahey) Shaver, the former of whom was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, January 3, 1822, and the latter in Harrison county, Ohio,

in October, 1840. The father was a member of a family of twelve children and came with his parents to Johnson county, Iowa, in 1844. This was in the pioneer days and they took up their residence in a little log cabin covered with a clapboard roof and supplied with a stick chimney, puncheon floor and clapboard door.

At twelve years of age Daniel K. Shaver began learning the printer's trade and during a large part of his life has been identified with the newspaper business. In 1852 he secured a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Johnson county in exchange for eight weeks' work which he did for Judge Green. He was foreman on the Iowa City Republican for two years and later established the American Union which he published for a short time at Iowa City. He engaged in farming in Johnson county until 1900, when he disposed of his place and bought a farm in Washington county, near Dayton, where he has since made his home. He has given his support to the republican party ever since its organization and is also a member in long standing of the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Independent Order of Good Templars. He has never used intoxicants or tobacco in any form and at the age of eighty-eight was able to stand and kick the door jamb of the house. He attributes his physical strength and endurance to the fact that he has always lived a temperate life. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaver, Bonetta and George D. are deceased. Those who survive are B. P., of this review, and B. R.

B. P. Shaver attended the district schools and completed his education at the Iowa Agricultural College. As he grew to manhood he assisted in work on his father's farm and devoted his attention mainly to agriculture and stock-raising until recently, when he and his brother associated together in the cement block and tile business. In the spring of 1910 they erected a factory at Columbus Junction, the plant being one of the largest of the kind in the state. It is thoroughly equipped with the most approved appliances and here cement blocks and tiles of all desirable sizes are manufactured in response to a demand that has constantly increased. The firm also does a contracting and building business and stands in high favor throughout a wide section where the name is known.

In 1888 Mr. Shaver married Miss Lydia Scheib, a native of Washington county, Iowa, and a daughter of Charles and Mary Scheib. The parents were born in Germany and on emigrating to this country took up their residence in Wisconsin. Subsequently they located in Washington county, Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaver: Merle M., who is now a student in the State University at Iowa City; Daniel K., Jr., who is a graduate of the high school at Mitchell, South Dakota, as the family lived in that state for some time; and Bernice J., who is now a student in the high school at Columbus Junction. Mrs. Shaver is a lady of rare social qualities and of unusual intellectual attainments. She received a college education and taught school with marked success for several years previous to her marriage.

Mr. Shaver and his brother are valued members of the Knights of Pythias. Wide-awake, enterprising and thoroughly competent as business men, they have



won the confidence and esteem of all with whom they have come into contact and the business they have established is recognized as one of the highly important enterprises in this part of the state.

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### ROBSON DOWSON.

Robson Dowson, who owns one of the excellent farms of Concord township, in the cultivation of which he is engaged, was born in Louisa county on the 29th of August, 1858. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Robson) Dowson, were natives of England, where they were married, emigrating to the United States in 1849. Upon their arrival here they first located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they remained for a short time, and then removed to St. Louis, Missouri. At the expiration of four years they came to Louisa county, Iowa, where they entered forty acres of land, in the cultivation of which Mr. Dowson engaged for twenty years, during which time he added to his holdings another sixty acres. Disposing of this farm they purchased one hundred and twenty acres two miles farther south, upon which they located, continuing to make that their home until their retirement in 1893. Mr. Dowson was a good agriculturist and capable manager and had acquired three hundred and seventy-five acres of good farm land when he withdrew from agricultural pursuits. When they left their homestead he and his wife moved to Columbus Junction, and there they were residing when she passed away in January, 1894. To them were born eight children: Jane, the wife of Caesar Bonnichsen, of Columbus Junction, a retired farmer; Mary, who became the wife of Thomas Newell, of Louisa county; Thomas, deceased; Robson, our subject; John, a resident of Kossuth county, Iowa; William, living in Nebraska; Charles H., of Detroit, Michigan; and Florence E., who died in 1896.

The boyhood and early youth of Robson Dowson were spent on the homestead farm where his parents first located upon coming to this county. His education was acquired in the district schools of the vicinity, which provided little more than a general knowledge of the common branches. He assisted his father in the work of the farm while still very young and by the time he had attained his maturity had a comparatively thorough knowledge of the science of farming. At the age of nineteen he began learning the carpenter's trade, for, being of a mechanical turn of mind this appealed to him more strongly as a vocation than did farming, and he continued to follow that trade for seventeen years. At the expiration of that period he rented his father's homestead, which he operated for eleven years. Acquiring his present farm at the end of that time he removed to it and has resided there continuously since. Mr. Dowson takes a great interest and pride in keeping up the appearance of his farm and it is one of the well improved and highly cultivated places of Concord township. In addition to the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of raising stock, and his efforts in both directions have been rewarded with very favorable returns.

On the 9th of September, 1885, Mr. Dowson was united in marriage with Miss Della Westbrook, who is a native of the state of New York and a daughter of James and Clarissa (Scott) Westbrook. Her parents are both deceased, the father having passed away in 1895, and the mother in 1897. Eight of their family are living, as follows: A. J. and J. B., both of whom are residents of Oklahoma, the latter a millionaire; D. H., living near Letts, this county; Edgar, who is living in the state of Washington; Emma, now Mrs. Wilson, living in Minnesota; Roana Diller, also a resident of the state of Washington; Della, now Mrs. Dowson; and Hector H., who is living in Muscatine county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dowson have been born three children, as follows: Harry Robson, who was born on the 21st of June, 1886, and is now attending Iowa State College, at Ames, Iowa; Scott Westbrook, who was born on the 11th of March, 1889, and is a high-school graduate, now teaching school in Wellington district; and Charles Hector, who was born on the 29th of June, 1892, and is attending high school.

The family affiliate with the United Brethern church, and his political support Mr. Dowson gives to the republican party but never having been an office seeker he does not actively participate in public affairs. He concentrates his energies upon the development of his farm, which is located on sections 14 and 15, Concord township, in the operation of which he is meeting with such gratifying success.

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#### WILLIAM BECK.

One of the well known financial institutions of Morning Sun is the Exchange Bank which was founded twenty-five years ago and of which William Beck, who was one of its founders, has long been at the head. He was born in Des Moines county on the 26th of October, 1847, and is a son of Conrad and Sophia (Grotz) Beck, natives of Germany. The father, who was an agriculturist, located in Des Moines county during the pioneer days. In his family were nine children: Mary, the deceased wife of David Schank, of Memphis, Tennessee; Sarah, a resident of Morning Sun; William, the subject of this sketch; Caroline, the wife of F. N. Smith, senator from Des Moines county; Henry, of Morning Sun; Cassie, the wife of E. L. McChurkin; Elizabeth, who married O. B. Jamison, of Louisa county; Emma, the widow of James Barr, of Burlington, Iowa; and Senna, the wife of Joseph Schwaller, also of Burlington.

The education of William Beck was completed in the schools of Nauvoo, Illinois, following which he returned home and assisted his father in the cultivation of the fields and the care of the stock. Later he came to Louisa county, Iowa, buying one thousand acres of land west of Morning Sun, where he pursued general farming and stock-raising until 1886. In that year he removed to Morning Sun and became associated with his brother-in-law, E. L. McChur-



in establishing the Exchange Bank, of which institution he has been the president for some time past.

On the 10th of December, 1891, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Beck and Miss Ella Berryhill, a daughter of William DeWitt and Annie Depni (Day) Berryhill, in whose family were the following children: Andrew, a resident of Idaho; William, of Colorado; Fannie, the wife of Thomas James, of Des Moines; Lisle, the deceased wife of James Scroggs, of South Dakota; Ella, now Mrs. Beck; Frank, living in Louisa county; Emma, the wife of A. B. Hook, of Jefferson county; Hastings, also a resident of Jefferson county; and twins, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Beck have four children, in order of birth, as follows: Lemma, who was born on the 2d of August, 1893, and is now attending college at Mount Pleasant; Joseph, born on the 30th of August, 1895; Leila, born on the 1st of September, 1897; and Lillian, whose birth occurred on the 14th day of March, 1900.

The family affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church and the political allegiance of Mr. Beck is given to the democratic party. Possessed of good judgment and business sagacity, he has given conclusive proof of his qualifications to successfully direct the policy of the institution with which he has long been connected.

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#### JACOB A. HANFT.

Jacob A. Hanft, who for the past nine years has been engaged in the hardware business in Columbus Junction, was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, on the 29th of March, 1855. He is a son of John N. and Helena (Smith) Hanft, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. They came to Louisa county in 1864, settling on a farm in Columbus City township. The father, who had always been a farmer, upon his arrival here first purchased only forty acres, increasing his tract at different times until he owned two hundred and sixty acres at the time of his death. He was an extensive as well as an intensive agriculturist and at one time he was engaged in the operation of two thousand acres, in connection with the cultivation of which he also raised cattle and hogs. Frequently he kept as many as twenty teams at work at one time in tilling the fields and harvesting the crops. In his family were thirteen children: William H. and John, both of whom are deceased; Milton D., who is a resident of Columbus Junction; Jacob A., our subject; Theodore F., who is living on the old homestead; George S., of Columbus Junction; Emma, the wife of Reuben Heindel, of Columbus Junction; Martha, who married George Wren, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Cora, who died in infancy; John T., who is living on a farm near Columbus Junction; Sarah, the wife of A. J. Willett, of Columbus Junction; Edward, deceased; and Louis, who died in infancy. The death of the father occurred in Columbus Junction in July, 1888.

The school days of Jacob A. Hanft began in the Keystone state, in which he resided during the first nine years of his life. When the family located in Louisa county he resumed his studies in the district school in the vicinity of the homestead. He remained at home with his parents until he was of age, during which time he worked for his father. For four years thereafter he was employed by his father, following which he cultivated rented land for two years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Keokuk, where he remained for a year, and then went to Van Buren county. There he engaged in the lumber business for five years, going from there to Warsaw, Illinois, where he continued in the same business for a similar period. He subsequently went to South Dakota, where he ran a stock ranch for two years. In 1895 he returned to Louisa county, and the following year he rented two hundred and forty acres of land northwest of Columbus Junction, which he operated for two years. He next rented the old Colonel Garner farm, also containing two hundred and forty acres, and after cultivating this for three and a half years he came to Columbus Junction and embarked in the draying business. Disposing of his interest in this at the end of three years, he has since engaged in the hardware business. This has proven to be a very successful venture and Mr. Hanft now owns the largest and best assorted stock of the kind in the town.

Keokuk, Iowa, was the scene of the marriage, on the 3d of November, 1878, of Mr. Hanft and Miss Lucy Wetherell, who passed away in March, 1901. Unto them were born three sons and two daughters, as follows: Jesse Edward, who is residing in Indianapolis, Indiana; Clyde J., who is living in Columbus City township; Mary Helen, the wife of John S. Dowson, of Wadsworth, Illinois; Bessie, who is a teacher in Columbus Junction; and Allan W., who is at home. In June, 1903, Mr. Hanft was again married, his second wife being Miss Sadie Segafaos, who is a daughter of Dan Segafaos.

Mr. Hanft is a member of the Presbyterian church and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political support is always given to the men and measures of the republican party. He is well and favorably known throughout the community, being numbered among the progressive and enterprising business men of the town.

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#### R. C. DITTO, M. D.

To Dr. R. C. Ditto, who has been engaged in practice in Oakville for eight years, belongs the distinction of being the first resident physician now in the village. He was born in Seaton, Illinois, on the 24th of December, 1873, and is a son of L. N. and Elizabeth (Wheatley) Ditto, the father a native of Ohio and mother of Kentucky. His parents removed to Illinois in early life and were united in marriage September 10, 1861. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary September 10, 1911, at the same homestead where they

first located. Unto them were born eleven children, all surviving and helping them celebrate their golden wedding.

Dr. Ditto was reared at home, acquiring his preliminary education in the public and high schools of his native town, following which he entered the Theological Seminary at Abingdon, Illinois, and was graduated from the college at Dixon, Illinois. He later matriculated at the Medical College at Keokuk, where he pursued his medical and surgical course. In 1901, Dr. Ditto opened an office at Augusta, Illinois, where he practiced for two years. At the expiration of that period he came to Oakville, Iowa, where he has since continued to reside. During the period of his residence here Dr. Ditto has succeeded in building up a very good practice, not only in Oakville but in the adjacent country.

Dr. Ditto was united in marriage in 1898 to Miss Ethel Halstead, who is a native of Illinois and a daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Willard) Halstead. Her father is now deceased but her mother is still living and continues to make her home in Dixon. They were the parents of three children. Four children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Ditto, as follows: Richard H., who was born on the 17th of July, 1899; Geraldine, whose birth occurred on the 16th of April, 1902; Darlyne, born on the 21st of February, 1905; and Justine, who was born on the 9th of February, 1907, and died on the 12th of February, 1908. Mrs. Ditto, who is a graduate of the Dixon high school was engaged in teaching prior to her marriage.

Dr. Ditto is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Christian church. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Royal Order of Moose, and the Modern Woodmen of America, while his political support is given the democratic party. He has met with success in his profession and in addition to his fine home and his office building in Oakville, he has a half interest in two hundred and forty acres of land in the country, twenty lots in town and six hundred and forty acres of land in Canada. He is highly regarded not only professionally but as a citizen in the community where he resides and has made many friends.

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#### C. A. WOODRUFF.

C. A. Woodruff, who is a farmer and also a real-estate dealer of Columbus Junction, may safely be designated as one of the prosperous men of Louisa county. He was born in this county December 25, 1856, a son of David and Mary A. (Turner) Woodruff, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1851 and located upon a farm. The father is still living and has arrived at the age of eighty-three years, the mother having passed away in 1903. In their family there were eight children four of whom survive.

After gaining his preliminary education in the public schools Mr. Woodruff of this review continued to assist his father in the work of the farm and thus became thoroughly acquainted with the various details of agriculture and stock-raising. Upon reaching his majority he rented land on his own account and five years later purchased ninety-four acres in Columbus City township, which was the foundation of his present farm, comprising three hundred and fifty acres. He has never spared any pains in order to secure the best results from his work and has made use of the most approved modern methods. He has also made many substantial improvements, thus adding greatly to the value of the farm. Later he purchased sixty acres adjoining the city limits where the family now reside. In addition to farming he is engaged in the mercantile business, having established a lumberyard at Columbus Junction in 1909. He also handles coal, cement and lime and is at the head of a thriving enterprise that gives promise of substantial development.

In 1880 Mr. Woodruff was married to Miss Mary Ogier, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Isaiah and Emeline (Nixon) Ogier, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state. Her parents settled in Louisa county, Iowa, and here passed the remainder of their days. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, namely: Anna, who married L. L. Ballentine, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mable, who died at the age of seventeen years; Alice, now Mrs. A. A. Ballentine, a resident of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Grace, who is the wife of John Hanpt, of West Liberty; Everett, Claire, Myra, Almond, and Max R.

Mr. Woodruff and his estimable wife are members of the Baptist church and are active workers in its behalf. Politically he is in hearty sympathy with the republican party. Always earnest and efficient in his undertakings, he has met with more than an ordinary measure of success and has demonstrated the possibilities that await young men who are willing to labor and if necessary to deny themselves luxuries early in their efforts, in order to possess a competence later.

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#### NOAH E. HUDSON.

Noah E. Hudson, who is meeting with success in agricultural pursuits in Morning Sun township, was born in Des Moines county on the 6th of April, 1877. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Dowell) Hudson, natives of Pennsylvania and Indiana respectively. The father has been a farmer all of his life and continues to make his home on the farm which he has been cultivating for so many years, but his wife passed away on the 20th of October, 1907.

The boyhood and youth of Noah E. Hudson were very similar to those of other lads who are reared in the rural districts. In the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools, during which time he also assisted in the work of the farm. When old enough to begin life for himself he rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he cultivated for four years. At the expiration of that time he purchased a similar amount in Morning Sun

township and there he engaged in general farming. He has recently begun to breed and raise white face cattle, which bids fair to be a successful venture. There is a very fine stone quarry on Mr. Hudson's farm, from which was taken all of the stone used in the construction of the courthouse at Wapello.

On the 18th of March, 1903, Mr. Hudson was united in marriage to Miss Irene Webster, a daughter of Eli and Harriet (Sellers) Webster, in whose family were three children as follows: Talma, who died in infancy; Walter H., who is a resident of Des Moines; and Irene, now Mrs. Hudson. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson have two daughters: Alice Leona, who was born on the 12th of September, 1904; and Harriet Elizabeth, whose birth occurred on the 5th of January, 1910.

His political allegiance Mr. Hudson gives to the republican party, but he has always been too much engaged with the development of his private interests to prominently participate in township affairs of a governmental nature. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an earnest and helpful interest.

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### J. C. HUNT.

J. C. Hunt, who is engaged in general farming in Morning Sun township, was born on the farm where he is now living on the 3d of April, 1860. His father, S. G. Hunt, was a native of Wayne county, Indiana, while his mother, who prior to her marriage was Josephine Curran, was born in Maryland. They came to Iowa during pioneer days and located on a farm where they resided continuously until they passed away. Unto them were born nine children, five of whom are still living, as follows: M. G., now residing in Aurora, Illinois; Caroline, the wife of D. D. Hamilton; J. C., our subject; W. P.; and Sophronia, who became the wife of S. C. Bell, of Missouri.

In the acquirement of his education J. C. Hunt attended the district schools and continued at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, then went to Henry county, Iowa, where he farmed for three years. At the expiration of that period he decided to go west and removed to Kansas, where he remained for ten years. From there he went to Oregon, of which state he was a resident for two years. In 1892 he returned to Henry county, where he again spent three years, and then came to Louisa county. After residing here for six years he removed to Sedalia, Missouri, where he spent three years. Returning to Louisa county at the end of that time, he bought his present homestead, containing one hundred and ten acres of land, upon which he has made quite extensive improvements, including some fine buildings.

Mr. Hunt was married December 23, 1887, to Miss Kate Hall, who was born near Prairie City in Fulton county, Illinois, a daughter of John D. and Margaret (Virden) Hall. Her father, who was a native of Somerset county, New Jersey, and a farmer by occupation, died in Kansas, December 22, 1901, but the mother is still living. She was born in Illinois and is now living on

the old homestead in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt had two children: Hazel, who died in infancy; and Margaret J., who is now attending high school.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members, and fraternally Mr. Hunt is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political support he gives to the candidates of the democratic party, considering that the policy of that party is best adapted to subserve the interests of the majority. He never actively participates in township affairs, however, always preferring to give his undivided attention to the direction and supervision of his personal interests.

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#### GEORGE W. REDDICK.

George W. Reddick, who has been engaged in agricultural pursuits during the greater portion of his life, was born in Adams county, Ohio, on the 7th of July, 1866. He is the eldest son of William H. and Rachel A. (Stahl) Reddick, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Decatur, Illinois. The family came to Iowa in 1876, locating in Kossuth, where they resided for two years, and then removed to Northfield where they spent a similar period. At the expiration of that time they went to Newport, where they lived for seventeen years, following which they located in Muscatine county, and there the father passed away in 1903. He was taken to Letts for burial and there his widow has since continued to reside. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in 1861 in Company E., Thirty-third Ohio Volunteers. He served for four years and was discharged with the rank of second lieutenant. His eldest son has the sword which was presented to Lieutenant Reddick by his admirers and friends in Ohio and upon one side is engraved: "Presented to Lt. William H. Reddick by his friends in Locust Grove, Ohio, May 15, 1863." On the other is inscribed: "Reward of Valor, Thirty-third Regiment, Ohio Volunteers." He had the misfortune to be taken prisoner at Big Shanty, Georgia, when the Union army seized the Confederate train. Unto Mr. and Mrs. William H. Reddick were born eight children besides our subject: Clark T., who is a resident of Centerville, Kansas; Emmer L., of Muscatine county; Jackson A., of Louisa county; Frank G., also of Muscatine, Iowa; Lilly M., the wife of Marion Frizzell, of Grangeville, Idaho; Merritt, of Muscatine; William H., of Louisa county; and Leora D., the wife of Clark Altrakuse, of Muscatine county.

At the age of sixteen years George W. Reddick began his business career by renting twenty-eight acres of land in Louisa county, in the cultivation of which he engaged for five years. At the expiration of that period he purchased the old Florence place, eight miles southeast of Wapello, which contained one hundred and sixty-six acres. After operating this for two years he disposed of it and removed to Newport, where he resided for two and a half years, and then rented one hundred and eighty acres four miles south of Wapello, where he resided for three years. He subsequently went to Coneville, Muscatine county,

where he farmed until August, 1909, following which he came to Oakville, where he is now residing.

Mr. Reddick completed his arrangements for a home of his own by his marriage on the 21st of May, 1893, to Miss Della M. Shaffer, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Pontjius) Shaffer. They were the parents of the following children: George E., who is a resident of Wapello; Della M., now Mrs. Reddick; Frank H., of Louisa county; Etta R., the deceased wife of Albert Babbitt, of Muscatine; William D., of Louisa county; Stella E., the wife of Stanley Honts, of Muscatine county; James R. L., deceased, and Charles W., also deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Reddick were born seven children: one who died in infancy; Vinnie G.; Cecil F., deceased; George C.; Harrold D.; Jessie S.; and Cleda R.

The religious views of the family are manifested through their affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally Mr. Reddick is identified with the Masonic order. His political support he always gives to the candidates of the republican party, although as he has never been an aspirant for public honors or the emoluments of office he does not prominently participate in political affairs, preferring to give his undivided attention to his personal interests.

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#### WILLIAM T. BARNETT.

For thirty years William T. Barnett has been employed by the Rock Island Railroad as telegraph operator and ticket agent at Letts. He was born in Corydon, Wayne county, Iowa, on the 10th of March, 1853, and is a son of the Rev. William and Judith (Saunders) Barnett. The father was a native of Kentucky and the mother of West Virginia, and the latter state was also the scene of their marriage. The Rev. Barnett was a captain on a boat on the Ohio river until 1848, when he came to the west, locating in the vicinity of Corydon, Iowa. He passed away in 1896 and his wife died in 1903. Seven children were born to them, in order of birth, as follows: Maggie, the widow of J. C. Chambers, of Corydon, Iowa; William T., our subject; M. C. who married L. K. Shell, of Corydon; A. N., who is a resident of Cambria, Iowa; E. A., the wife of M. C. Rush, of Cambria; George M., a resident of Centerville, Iowa; and J. M., who lives in Des Moines. After locating in Iowa, the Rev. Barnett began preaching the gospel as a missionary in the Baptist church, and for over forty years he occupied the pulpit of one church.

William T. Barnett received a common-school education, in the acquirement of which he attended the public schools of his native town. When he attained his majority he began life for himself, his first position being that of brakeman on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad for two years. At the expiration of that time he went into the office of the company and there he qualified as a telegraph operator and ticket agent. In 1875 he entered the employment of the Rock Island Railroad Company and was assigned to the position of assistant agent at Lineville, Iowa, whence he came to Letts. Mr. Barnett owns ninety-



one acres of finely improved land a mile from Letts, all of which, with the exception of ten acres of timber, is under a high state of cultivation, and in addition to this he also has a nice residence in Letts.

Mr. Barnett first married Miss Minnie Taylor, a native of Unionville, Iowa, by whom he had one son, Ethan A., who was born in 1879, and is a high-school graduate. He is now married and living in Fresno, California. He has one child, Helen, who is five years of age. On the 25th of September, 1885, Mr. Barnett married Miss Katie Freeland, who was born in Grand View, Iowa. Her parents, Isaac and Julia Freeland, were married in Grand View, where the father was engaged in the mercantile business until 1904, when he retired. Mrs. Freeland passed away in 1905. There were three children in their family: Albia, who is in the mercantile business in Fontana, Kansas; T. L., who is associated with his brother in the same business; and Katie, now Mrs. Barnett, a graduate of the Grand View University, Grand View, Iowa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barnett have been born three children, two of whom Julia and Helen J., are deceased. Their only son, Jay Lincoln, who was born in 1890, is a train dispatcher at Trenton, Missouri, being the youngest man by nine years employed in this capacity by the Rock Island Railroad. He is unmarried.

Mr. Barnett always votes the republican ticket but has never been an office seeker. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, in which he has attained high rank. He is identified with the blue lodge of Letts, the chapter of Centerville, the commandery at Muscatine and Shrine at Davenport. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which organization they take an active and earnest interest. During the long period of his residence in Letts Mr. Barnett has made many friends who hold him in high esteem because of his many fine personal qualities.

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#### JOHN C. HULL.

John C. Hull, who for the past two years has been engaged in the automobile business in Columbus Junction, was born in Canton, Missouri, on the 10th of June, 1873. He is a son of John C. and Emily (Patrick) Hull, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Louisa county in 1890, locating in Columbus City, where they continue to reside. Unto them were born three children: Anna, who died in infancy; John C., our subject; and Myra, the deceased wife of John Ward, of Memphis, Tennessee.

At the age of sixteen years John C. Hull laid aside his school books and entered a shop to learn the wagon-maker's trade, which he followed until 1909. For the first two years after locating in Iowa he conducted a shop at Columbus City, but at the expiration of that period he removed to Columbus Junction, continuing business there until two years ago. With the increasing popularity of automobiles and motor trucks he recognized the advantages offered in the business and so withdrew from wagon-making in order that he might engage



in it. He bought a lot and erected thereon a fine garage, the only one in Columbus Junction, and is making a specialty of the Overland car.

Mr. Hull was united in marriage on the 3d of April, 1893, with Miss Nellie Moore, a daughter of W. K. and Louisa (Baker) Moore, who are the parents of the following children: Nellie, now Mrs. Hull; Margaret and William, twins, the former a resident of Cedar Rapids and the latter of Billings, Montana; and Ada, who married Gary Orr, of Panhandle, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Hull have had three children, William, Muriel, and one who died in infancy.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hull affiliate with the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political support he gives to the candidates of the republican party, but he has never taken an active part in municipal affairs, as his personal interests have demanded his undivided attention.

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### WILLIAM S. ISETT.

William S. Isett, a successful lumberman and manufacturer of Wapello, operates a large lumberyard and planing-mill at that place and also has two sawmills in Arkansas. His birth occurred in Wapello, Louisa county, Iowa, on the 28th of May, 1851, his parents being Edward B. and Mary (Oliver) Isett, both of whom were natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. They came to this county in 1841, Mr. Isett here embarking in the mercantile business. Subsequently, in association with his brother, J. W. Isett, he erected a packing house and engaged in the packing business. They likewise owned a steamboat and shipped their pork to St. Louis and the south. Edward B. Isett passed away in 1861, his wife surviving him until 1905, when she was called to her final rest at the age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: J. O., who is a resident of Wapello; William S., of this review; G. M., also living in Wapello; and seven who are deceased.

William S. Isett was educated in the common schools and spent the period of his minority under the parental roof. After attaining his majority he began work at the carpenter's trade, being engaged in building and contracting until 1908. In that year he embarked in the lumber business, purchasing a large tract of timber land in Arkansas, where he and his son operate two sawmills. He likewise operates a large lumberyard and planing-mill in Wapello, Iowa, and his undertakings in this connection have been attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity. He has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellowmen. Mr. Isett owns a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Dakota.

In 1881 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Isett and Miss Mary McPartland, a daughter of J. B. and Jane (Drew) McPartland, both of whom were

natives of Ireland. They emigrated to America in 1842, locating at Burlington, Iowa, and both are now deceased. Unto them were born ten children, five of whom are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Isett have two children. Edward B. married Miss Agnes Severs and has three children: Donald S., Margaret L., and Edward S. Mary S. Isett, who has displayed special talent in both vocal and instrumental music, is now a college student at Rock Island, Illinois.

Mr. Isett is a democrat in politics but has never sought office as a reward for his party fealty. He was reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church and his wife was reared in the Catholic faith. Mr. Isett has remained a resident of Wapello from his birth to the present time and that his life has ever been upright and honorable is indicated by the fact that the associates of his boyhood and youth are still numbered among his stanch friends and admirers.

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### ROBERT M. MOORE.

Robert M. Moore, who for thirteen years has been successfully engaged in the hardware business at Columbus City, is a native son of Louisa county and one of its highly esteemed citizens. He was born on a farm in Columbus City township, July 31, 1848, a son of Mitchell and Margaret (Orr) Moore, both of whom were natives of Tennessee. They were married in their native state and came to Iowa in 1842, settling in Columbus City township. Here Mr. Moore entered two hundred acres of land and engaged in farming during the remainder of his life. There were nine children in the family, namely: F. J., who served as county supervisor for six years and is now deceased; D. W., who resides in Des Moines; Jane, who is now the wife of John Rossenberger, of Oklahoma; John S., deceased; Joseph M., who served as a soldier in the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Atlanta, Georgia; Ebenezer, who died at the age of three years; Anna J., who became the wife of J. H. Richie, of Allerton, Iowa; Robert M.; and Margaret, who became the wife of L. L. Baird, of Ringgold county, Iowa, and is now deceased.

In the common schools Robert M. Moore received his preliminary education and on his father's farm he became acquainted with all classes of work pertaining to agriculture and stock-raising. After reaching maturity he ran a ditching machine for three years and then rented one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he cultivated to good advantage. He bought eighty acres, upon which he lived for ten years, and then disposed of it in order to enter the hardware business in Columbus City, where he has made his home since 1898. He has applied himself closely to mercantile pursuits and has built up a lucrative patronage, being also the owner of his home in Columbus City.

On the 12th of September, 1872, Mr. Moore was married to Miss Lizzie J. Baird, a daughter of John and Mary (Atcheson) Baird. There were nine children in the Baird family, namely: J. Calvin, deceased; Lizzie J.; Euphemia, who is the wife of W. W. Orr, of Albia, Monroe county, Iowa; Thomas L.,

of Kingfield county; John, who married J. J. Moore, of Louisa county; and Ella, Lina, Emma and Sherman, all of whom are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Moore four children were born: Mary, who is engaged in teaching school at Columbus Junction; Maggie and Lilly, both of whom are deceased; and J. Fred, who is filling the position of principal of schools at Columbus City.

Mr. Moore is a staunch friend of education and is known as one of the enterprising and progressive men of Columbus City, who is always willing to contribute his share toward the development of the best interests of the community. He has made a conscientious study of political and social questions and as a result gives his support to the prohibition party, believing that the saloon is one of the greatest evils with which the country is afflicted. He is a man of high character and worthy ideals, and as he is always straightforward in business he has earned the confidence and esteem of the people irrespective of religion or political bias.

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#### DWIGHT L. LEE.

One of the well improved and carefully cultivated farms of Oakland township is that of Dwight L. Lee, who owns four hundred and fifty acres of land. The only child of Addison E. and Mercy (Hale) Lee, he was born in Huron county, Ohio, on the 7th of September, 1860. The parents were also natives of that county and there they continued to make their home until they passed away. For thirty-one years the father was engaged in the stove manufacturing business, but later he organized a bank at Dexter, Ohio, which he conducted for eighteen years. His wife passed away in 1868, but he survived her until the 23d of March, 1911, dying at the age of eighty-two years.

Dwight L. Lee acquired a good common-school education, following which he engaged in business with his father after attaining his majority. They continued to be associated until the latter's demise and as our subject was the only heir he came into possession of the homestead. This is one of the well improved properties of Oakland township, while two hundred acres of the four hundred and fifty contained in the farm are under a high state of cultivation.

In February, 1881, Mr. Lee married Miss Mary Fawcett, who was born in Lucas county, Ohio. She was a daughter of Joshua and Camilla Fawcett, natives of Henry county, Ohio, where they passed away. By this union there were born two children: Ella, a graduate of a commercial college, who was born on the 1st of June, 1890, and is now residing in Detroit, Michigan; and Katherine, who was born in 1893 and is the deceased wife of Michael Jacobi, of Toledo, Ohio. On the 24th of November, 1897, Mr. Lee was married to his present wife, who was formerly Mrs. Emma Owens, the widow of the late Homer Owens. She was born in England on the 20th of December, 1864, and when a child of five years emigrated to the United States with her parents, who

located in Iowa in 1869. Here her father passed away on the 10th of August, 1904, and her mother, who has attained the venerable age of eighty-one years, now makes her home with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have one son, Harry A., who was born in November, 1900, and is now attending school. Mrs. Lee had one daughter by her previous marriage, Ada B., who is now the wife of Clarence Tuttle, of Lone Tree, Iowa.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lee affiliate with the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he is a republican. He is one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Oakland township, and both are held in high regard in the community where they reside.

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### J. L. MARSHALL.

For many years the Alaskan lure has proved a magnetic force, attracting to the rich regions of that district adventuresome spirits from all parts of this continent. Not all, however, who responded to the call of the northwest were as fortunate as he whose name introduces this review, and therefore the story of the career of J. L. Marshall, with its chapters of adventure and its sequel of success, will prove of interest to the readers of this volume. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth occurring in Louisa county on the 3d of July, 1861. The parents, W. H. and Elizabeth Marshall, who were born in England and Virginia respectively, came to this county in 1844, during the pioneer history of this region, and here entered land upon which they resided throughout their remaining years. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom two have now passed away.

On the home farm in Louisa county J. L. Marshall was reared, attending the common schools near his father's home during the winter months, while the summer seasons were devoted to the work of the fields, thus acquiring thorough practical training. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, when he embarked upon an independent career and for some time was engaged in agricultural pursuits. Subsequently, however, the fever of excitement and adventure possessed him and, deciding to seek his fortune in the northwest, started for Alaska in 1898 by boat. On reaching Skagway he reloaded his possessions on a lighter, which carried him as far as Dyea, and from that place he went to Canyon City with a team and pack mules. Again taking the water route he made his way to Sheep Camp, thence to the Scales at the foot of Chilkoot mountains, and at that point crossed the great divide between Alaska and Canada. Making his way over Long and Crater lakes, he passed through a large canyon to Lake Linderman and there built a sail boat, on which to cross that body of water to One Mile river. There it was necessary to freight his goods to Lake Bennett, from which place he went by boat to Windy Arrow, then to Marsh lake and on to Lake Labarge. Passing through White Horse rapids he sailed down the Thirty Mile river, through the Five Finger rapids to the Rink rapids and thence on up to Dawson. He remained at that place

for a year and a half, after which he started for St. Michaels, Alaska, and thence he made his way to Nome, arriving at that city at the time of the big rush. In 1900 he traveled about one hundred and forty miles north into the Kougarok mining district, where he engaged in prospecting for a time. Striking some good leads he purchased several claims and for a number of years carried on mining with splendid results. After actively operating his mines for some time, during which period he met with excellent success, he went to eastern Washington and a few months later returned to Iowa, now making his home in Louisa county.

Mr. Marshall was married in 1892 to Miss Dora Brown, a daughter of J. K. and Ellen Brown, of whom mention is made on another page in this volume. Mr. Marshall gives stanch support to the democratic party, although he has never sought nor desired public office for himself. Such in brief has been the record of one whose history, if told in detail, would read like a romance, with its interesting incidents and adventures of life on the trail and in the mining camp, and yet the success which has crowned that life has been substantial in an eminent degree and has ranked Mr. Marshall among the prominent and affluent men of Louisa county.

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#### RICHARD H. MALIN.

Richard H. Malin, who for seven years has been engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Columbus Junction, was born in Washington county, Iowa, on the 16th of April, 1867. He is a son of the late James and Elizabeth (Huskins) Malin, the father having for many years been engaged in the dry-goods business in Washington. He was a native of Ohio and passed away at the age of eighty-five years. The mother, who is still living at the age of seventy-nine years and makes her home in Ainsworth, Iowa, was born in Pennsylvania. They had two children, a son and a daughter, the latter being Stella, the wife of M. L. Miller, of Ainsworth.

After the completion of his education, in the acquirement of which he attended the common schools, Richard H. Malin began his business career. At the age of eighteen years he entered one of the furniture stores of Washington which was conducted in connection with an undertaking establishment, in order to learn the business. He remained with the firm until 1904, at which time he removed to Columbus Junction, where he opened an establishment of his own. His venture has proven to be a success in every sense of the word and he enjoys a most excellent patronage, having the only business of the kind in the town.

The 27th of February, 1890, was the marriage day of Mr. Malin and Miss Anna McFarland, a daughter of William and Martha (Connors) McFarland, who had nine children: James R., now a resident of Garnett, Kansas; Lena, the wife of S. P. Telford, of Whitney, Iowa; William, a resident of Washington,

Iowa; John, deceased; Iva, the wife of A. H. Essley, of Washington; Edward G., also a resident of Washington, Iowa; Anna, now Mrs. Malin; Mauda, who married William Sampson, of Davenport, Iowa; and Etta, who is at home. Mr. and Mrs. Malin have one daughter, Myra, whose birth occurred on the 20th of December, 1898.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Malin affiliate with the Presbyterian church and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political support is given to the republican party but the demands of his business make it impossible for him to actively participate in municipal affairs. Enterprising and progressive, he is meeting with success and is recognized as one of the representative business men of Columbus Junction.

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### OLIVER J. DERBY.

General farming and stock-raising have always claimed the attention of Oliver J. Derby, who is most successfully engaged in both pursuits at his home place, which is situated on sections 7 and 18, Port Louisa township. He was born in Illinois, on the 20th of March, 1864, and is the youngest child and only son of the late Jerome and Lucinda (Wyman) Derby. The parents were married in Vermont, of which state they were natives, and later removed to Illinois, where they resided until 1878, when they came to Iowa. Upon their arrival in this state they purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Louisa county, which they cultivated for three years. They disposed of that place at the expiration of that time and purchased one hundred and eighty acres on sections 7 and 18, Port Louisa township, which they cultivated until 1892, when they sold it to their son and removed to Grand View, where the father passed away in July, 1897. The mother subsequently resided with her son until her demise in January, 1911. Four children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Derby: Mary L., the wife of John Allen, of Macomb, Illinois; Belle, who died in infancy; Alma, who died at the age of forty years; and Oliver, J., our subject.

The boyhood and youth of Oliver J. Derby were not unlike those of other farmer lads of his time and circumstances. His education was acquired in the district schools, such time as he was not there engaged being either occupied in the performance of such tasks as were assigned by his parents, or in the diversions usually indulged in by young people in the rural districts. After laying aside his school books he assisted his father with the cultivation of the farm until he attained his majority, at which time he left home. For six years thereafter he farmed as a renter, during which time by means of close application, untiring energy and rigid economy he acquired the capital to enable him to become a property owner. Naturally his preference fell upon the old homestead and as his parents were anxious to retire he bought the farm where the greater part of his life had been spent. During the long period of his residence he has made many changes in the place. The improvements are all substan-

tial, the fences are good, the land is thoroughly tilled, while the fields are given the careful and capable supervision which results in abundant harvests. In fact everything about the place suggests thrift and prosperity. Mr. Derby engages in general farming and stock-raising, his preference being for red Durham cattle, and he is also an extensive feeder. He has met with success in his ventures and in addition to his beautiful homestead owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Rosebud, South Dakota, which is also well improved and thoroughly cultivated.

On the 4th of March, 1885, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna B. Benz, who is also a native of Louisa county, her birth occurring on the 17th of September, 1864. She is a daughter of Mathias and Lucy (Schneider) Benz, the father a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania, in which state they were married and later came to Iowa. Although Mr. Benz was a brewer by trade, after locating in this state he engaged in agricultural pursuits until the time of his demise in 1907, which was two years after that of his wife. Six children were born to them, in order of birth, as follows: Lydia, who married W. F. Nelson, a resident of Louisa county; Mary, the wife of H. J. Jeffries of Muscatine; Anna B., now Mrs. Derby; Jacob, who is living in Louisa county; Albert, who died at the age of six years; and Zula, also deceased, who was the wife of J. H. Hintermeister, of Muscatine. To Mr. and Mrs. Derby have been born the following children: Paul A., who was born on the 2d of November, 1887, and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota; Harvey W., born on the 29th of March, 1890, living at Carter, South Dakota; Ethel May, born on the 25th of May, 1898; Oliver E., born on the 2d of April, 1900; and Frank I., born on the 17th of October, 1905. The three younger children are all attending school.

Mr. Derby always casts his ballot for the candidates of the democratic party, but not being an aspirant for office he does not actively participate in public affairs. He is well regarded in the township where he resides and is recognized as one of the successful and substantial agriculturists of the county.

#### ROY DAVISON McCULLOUGH.

As cashier of the Commercial Bank of Wapello, Roy Davison McCullough, whose name introduces this review, is well known in financial circles of southeastern Iowa. He has shown sound judgment in his business and has discharged the duties of his position in such a way as to meet the hearty approval of directors and stockholders of the bank. He was born at Monmouth, Illinois, January 23, 1875, a son of John B. and Mary I. (Davison) McCullough, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Roy D. McCullough attended the public schools of Wapello and was graduated from the high school. Later he matriculated at the State University at Iowa City, where he continued for two years. After leaving the university in



1902, he became connected with the Commercial Bank at Wapello as bookkeeper and advanced through various positions until March 2, 1908, when he was appointed cashier of the bank. Having passed almost his entire life in this section, he is well acquainted with the people and also with land values, his judgment often being sought concerning investments. He has made a success in the financial world and is regarded as one of the highly promising young men of Louisa county.

On the 16th of December, 1905, Mr. McCullough was married to Miss Edith Springer, a daughter of Arthur Springer, historian of this work. They have three children: Mary E., who was born October 31, 1906; John, born in January, 1908; and Jean, born January 20, 1910.

Mr. McCullough is not connected with any religious denomination but his wife is a valued member of the Methodist church. Politically he is a republican and is identified with the progressive element of the party—an element that believes the organization has within itself the ability to meet and overcome all obstacles and to conduct wisely the affairs of state and nation. Mr. McCullough has gained an enviable reputation as an earnest, conscientious and capable man, who may be depended upon to carry successfully forward any enterprise with which he is connected. He can claim many friends in Wapello and the tributary region, whom he has attracted by his sterling qualities and gentlemanly address.

#### WILLIAM C. SWAN.

A farm of one hundred and twenty acres located on sections 29 and 32, Morning Sun township, well repays the efforts of William C. Swan, who has been engaged in its cultivation for twenty-two years. He was born in Louisa county on the 19th of April, 1861, and is a son of the late Joseph and Molly Bell (Hamilton) Swan, natives of Pennsylvania and Iowa respectively. The father came to Louisa county in 1840 and purchased forty acres of land but disposed of this later and subsequently bought eighty acres elsewhere, to which he added at various times until he had acquired four hundred and fifty acres, where he engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He passed away in 1899 and was laid to rest beside his wife in Elmwood cemetery, Morning Sun. At the time of his demise Mr. Swan was about seventy-six years of age, but his wife was only fifty-one at the time of her death, which occurred in 1872. They were the parents of six children, all but one of whom are living, and in order of birth they were as follows: Joseph L.; Elizabeth Grace, who is deceased; George L.; William C.; Alex. C.; and Erasmus M., all residents of Morning Sun township.

A student of the district schools, William C. Swan continued to be engaged in the acquirement of his education until the completion of the regular course. After laying aside his text-books he engaged in agricultural pursuits under the



supervision of others until he had attained the age of twenty-three years, when he rented eighty acres, which he cultivated for five years. At the expiration of that period he bought eighty acres, which formed the nucleus of his present homestead. He makes a specialty of the breeding and raising of Poland China hogs, in addition to which he also engages in general farming. Both branches of his business having yielded lucrative returns, it has been possible for him to extend the boundaries of his original tract and his farm now comprises one hundred and twenty acres. It is well improved, plentifully stocked and in a good state of cultivation, as a result of his well applied energy.

The marriage of Mr. Swan and Miss Anna Eliza Ellen McClure was solemnized on the 4th of September, 1885. Mrs. Swan is a daughter of Alex and Julia (Montgomery) McClure, who were the parents of seven children: Mary Susan, the wife of C. F. Hewett, a resident of Louisa county; Hester, who married R. W. Breckenridge, of Clarion, Iowa; James V., who is living in Murray, this state; Anna Eliza Ellen, now Mrs. Swan; Emma, the wife of J. C. Callwell, of Creston; Frank, of Cody, Wyoming; and one who died in infancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Swan have been born eight children: Joseph F., who is living at home; Charles C., a resident of Marengo, Iowa; Viola Bell, who married Walter O. Swan, of Morning Sun; and Oscar Knox, Vera L., Gladys Julia, Alta May and Marcus McClure, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Swan exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates of the republican party and has several times been elected to the office of township trustee. The family attend the services of the Presbyterian church, with which the parents have long been affiliated and among whose members they have many friends.

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#### EDWARD C. KAUFFMAN.

The advantages of a good practical education have been exemplified in the life of Edward C. Kauffman who is now successfully engaged in the real-estate business at Columbus Junction. He early resolved to make an honorable record in the world and, possessing excellent habits and sound principles, he steadfastly persevered, even in the face of grave obstacles. As a result he is now in a large degree financially independent. A native of Fillmore county, Nebraska, he was born March 2, 1879, a son of Joseph and Mary E. (Dennis) Kauffman. The father was born in Pennsylvania and the mother in Louisa county, Iowa. Mrs. Kauffman died in 1906, but her husband is still living and makes his home in Columbus City township. There were eight children in their family, five of whom survive.

Edward C. Kauffman received his preliminary education in the public schools and at sixteen years of age, desiring to prosecute his studies further, he went to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he attended college for two years. He then began teaching school and engaged in that vocation for two years in Nebraska and for one year in Louisa county. Having learned the barber's trade, he followed it

for a year, at the end of which time he was attracted to the restaurant and grocery business. After an experience of three years in those lines he sold out and went to Gladwin where he was engaged for two years as a grocer. Having acquired the necessary capital, he purchased a farm in Oakland township which he cultivated for two years. Having decided to change his calling, he rented his farm and moved to Columbus Junction, where he has since engaged in the real estate business, being a member of the firm of Knott & Kauffman, who deal in real estate in Columbus Junction and also in farm lands in various parts of the west. The partners are men of energy, experience and ability and they are meeting with a gratifying measure of success.

In June, 1902, Mr. Kauffman was married to Miss Pearl I. Parsons, a native of Columbus City township and a daughter of A. H. Parsons, who is still living on the old homestead. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman: Milton, Dorothy N., Charles B. and Arthur. Mrs. Kauffman is a woman of fine intellectual attainments and is a graduate of the Columbus Junction high school. She and her husband are both connected with the Methodist Episcopal church.

In politics Mr. Kauffman is a supporter of the candidates and principles of the republican party but not with any desire to gain office, as he prefers to concentrate his attention upon his business. He is a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, all of Columbus Junction and can claim many warm personal friends in those organizations as well as among citizens generally. He has had a varied experience in life and having exercised good judgment in business affairs he has won an estimable position among the people of the county.

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### JOHN J. BEIK.

John J. Beik, an enterprising and public-spirited citizen of Grand View, who was born in Louisa county on the 6th of June, 1875, is a son of Jacob and Emma (Jackson) Beik, who were among the pioneer residents of this county. His mother having died when he was but a child, John J. Beik has always made his home with his grandmother, who has now attained the venerable age of eighty-six years. In the acquirement of his education he attended the common schools and later engaged in farming until he was twenty years of age. In 1895 he embarked in the feed-mill business, continuing to be identified with that industry for nine years. At the expiration of that period he turned his plant into a button factory, which he has ever since operated, having met with a fair degree of success therein. In connection with this for several years he managed the lumber and coal yard of the W. G. Block Company but in 1910 bought the lumber business, which he is still carrying on. Mr. Beik is one of the enterprising and industrious young business men of Grand View, who concentrates his energies upon the management of his affairs.

His only fraternal connection is his membership in Grand View Lodge, No. 723, I. O. O. F., while his political allegiance is given to the republican party, for whose candidates he always casts his ballot. He takes an active and helpful interest in all municipal affairs and has for several years represented his ward in the village council. Upon Mr. Beik devolved the more responsible duties of life while still little more than a youth, and the result has been his development into a man of decision and capability as is attested in his business transactions.

### RUFUS SHERMAN JOHNSTON.

Public-spirited and loyal in his citizenship, few residents of this district have taken a more keen or helpful interest in the welfare of the county and state than has Rufus Sherman Johnston, one of Iowa's native sons. He was born near Columbus City, Louisa county, on the 4th of October, 1864, a son of James Harvey and Esther (Orr) Johnston. The parents were both born in Tennessee in 1828 and came to this state in 1856, the father giving his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits.

In the graded schools of Columbus City Rufus Sherman Johnston began his education, which he later completed by a course of study in Eastern Iowa Normal School at Columbus Junction, graduating from that institution in 1886. He was early imbued with the desire to enter mercantile circles, and consequently, after laying aside his text-books, he spent five years in connection with the hardware business. Since that time, however, he has concentrated his energies upon agricultural pursuits, in which he has always been deeply interested, and now has a half interest in and full management of a fine tract of four hundred acres adjoining Columbus City. He engages in general farming and stock-feeding and his efforts in both directions have been resultant forces in the acquirement of a goodly degree of success. He has long been known, also, in financial circles of this community, having served as director in the Louisa County National and Louisa County Savings Banks for twenty years.

Mr. Johnston was married, at Columbus City, Iowa, on the 6th of March, 1890, to Miss Loui Colton, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colton, and unto this union have been born three daughters, namely: Helen, attending Drake University, at Des Moines, Iowa; and Edith and Pauline, yet at home. Although Mr. Johnston belongs to no special religious denomination, he is nevertheless a faithful supporter financially of various churches, and is not connected with any secret societies or fraternities, although he is not opposed to such organizations. He does, however, take a deep and sincere interest in the affairs of the county and state, and has cooperated in many movements which have had for their purpose the public good and general development and improvement.

He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for twenty years he has served as a member of the Columbus City school board, the cause of

education finding in him a stalwart champion. He was elected a member of the board of supervisors in 1905, and is now serving for the fifth year in that office, with one more year before his term expires. He has done much toward stimulating interest along agricultural lines and is well known throughout the state in connection therewith. He served as secretary of Columbus Junction District Fair for seven years, from 1898 until 1904, was elected a member of Iowa Department of Agriculture and in 1904 became and still remains a member of the State Fair Board. He has been identified officially for some time with the expenditure of a half million dollars for reclaiming wet and overflowed lands by drainage in Louisa and adjoining counties, and has given close attention to the subject of improvement of roads and bridges.

It would be tautological to say here that for many years his interests have been thoroughly allied with those of Louisa county and the state of Iowa, for this fact has been shadowed forth between the lines of this review. Progress and public-spirited citizenship have been salient features in his career and the consensus of public opinion accords him a prominent place among the valued and representative residents of this locality. He has a wide general acquaintance throughout Iowa, owing to the extent of his private and public interests, while in his home community he has a large circle of warm friends who entertain for him unqualified regard and esteem.

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#### FRED ALBURN.

A native of Columbus City where he has spent his entire life, Fred Alburn was born March 9, 1875. He is a son of Henry N. and Elizabeth D. (Waugh) Alburn, the former of whom was born at York, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Ohio. The father came to Iowa with his family in 1854 and took up his residence at Columbus City. He was a stonemason and engaged at his trade for many years but was attracted to farming in this county, which he followed only a short time, as it did not prove a financial success. He accordingly sold his farm and bought a large lot in Columbus City where he built a comfortable two-story house for himself and family. He died November 12, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Alburn were the parents of four children: Edward and Charles, both of whom are deceased; Monta, at home; and Fred, of this review.

After receiving his preliminary education in the public schools Fred Alburn began learning the mason's trade under his father. He applied himself with such diligence that he became a first-class stonemason and performed his work so well that his services are in constant demand, there being more calls for his time and labor than he is able to respond to. He has assisted in the construction of many of the most substantial buildings in Columbus City and vicinity and his advice is often sought by persons contemplating the erection of residences or business houses. He has gradually turned his attention to concrete work, in which he is an acknowledged expert.

Politically Mr. Alburn is a staunch supporter of the republican party. He has never sought the honors of public office as his interest is centered on his work and he has gained deserved prominence as a first-class mason. Although unmarried he is not without family responsibility as he is the head of a household of which his mother and sister are members. The former has now reached the age of seventy-three years. Mrs. Alburn holds membership in the Congregational church, but her son is an attendant of the United Brethren church. By a life of well applied industry he has won the confidence and friendship of many of the best citizens of his native town and has also gained a position of comparative financial independence.

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### HERBERT W. GARRETT.

An excellent farm of two hundred and fifty-eight acres pay tribute to the agricultural skill of Herbert W. Garrett, who is a resident of Port Louisa township. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on the 8th of July, 1862, and is a son of Abel and Elizabeth (Felker) Garrett. The father was a native of England and the mother of Kentucky, in which state they were married and resided for a time, but afterward came to Iowa. Upon their arrival in this state they first located in Burlington, coming from there to Wapello, where the father passed away in 1894. The mother is still living at the age of seventy-three and makes her home with her son at Laredo, Missouri. Seven children were born to them: George, who is a resident of Friendship, Wisconsin; Robert, of Laredo, Missouri; Edward of Wapello, Iowa; Herbert W., our subject; Clarence, of Joplin, Missouri; Frank, deceased; and Julia, of Wapello.

In the acquirement of his education Herbert W. Garrett attended the district schools of Louisa county and when out of school assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm. When he had obtained such knowledge as he deemed fitted him for the heavier responsibilities of life he laid aside his text-books, devoting his entire attention to the work of the homestead. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority and then began farming as a renter, being thus employed for several years, during which time he saved enough money to enable him to buy one hundred and forty-nine acres of land on section 18, Port Louisa township, which he continues to cultivate. Mr. Garrett engages in general farming and stock-raising, in both of which ventures he is meeting with success. He also is an extensive feeder of stock for the market in which way he utilizes all of the grain raised on his farm. From time to time he has added to his holdings until he now owns two hundred and fifty-eight acres of well improved land, which is under a high state of cultivation.

On the 4th of January, 1884, occurred the marriage of Mr. Garrett and Miss Ella Hicklin, who was born in Brunswick, Missouri, on the 12th of December, 1850. She is the eldest daughter of William and Catherine (Bullion) Hicklin, who were natives of Kentucky and Illinois respectively. They were married in

Missouri, where they continued to live for a time, and then removed to Salt Lake City, where the mother passed away. Following this the father located in Wapello, where he lived until his demise in 1893. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hicklin were born two children beside Mrs. Garrett: Lulu, the wife of M. V. Smith, a resident of Clay Center, Kansas; and Thomas, whose whereabouts are unknown. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett have had five children, in the order of birth being as follows: Robert, who was born on the 12th of July, 1887, and is still at home; Arthur, born on the 13th of December, 1889, who is married and living at Laredo, Missouri; Joe, who was born on the 30th of April, 1892, and is still at home; and William and Walter, both of whom died in infancy. The three sons have commercial-college educations, as have also Mr. and Mrs. Garrett.

The religious views of the family coincide with those of the Christian denomination, with which they are affiliated. Fraternally Mr. Garrett is identified with the Knights of Pythias through the medium of his membership in the lodge of Wapello, and politically with the Democratic party. He has never been an office seeker, however, preferring to devote his entire attention to the development of his private interests, in which he is meeting with very satisfactory returns.

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### THOMAS J. UMPHREY.

Thomas J. Umphrey, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Morning Sun township, is the owner of a valuable tract of land embracing three hundred and thirty-five acres on section 16. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Louisa county, his birth having here occurred on the 30th of December, 1850. His parents, James G. and Nancy F. (Bevans) Umphrey, were natives of Kentucky and Ohio respectively. Coming to Iowa, the father settled first in Des Moines county and in the year 1848 arrived in Louisa county, here continuing to reside until called to his final rest in 1877. Prospering in his undertakings as an agriculturist, he had accumulated eighteen hundred acres of rich and productive land at the time of his demise. His wife passed away in 1895 and her death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. Their children were ten in number, namely: Maryette, deceased, who was the wife of David Gregory of Morning Sun, Iowa; Francis, who is a resident of Morning Sun; Elizabeth, the wife of S. F. Small, of Wapello, Iowa; Zethania, deceased; one who died in infancy; Jane, who has likewise passed away; Thomas J., of this review; Cordelia and John, both of whom are deceased; and Ida, the wife of a Mr. Dye, of Grant City, Missouri.

Thomas J. Umphrey attended a private institution of learning in his youth and obtained a high school education. He remained on the home farm until twenty-two years of age and then embarked in the lumber business at Morning Sun, there conducting his interests successfully for five years. On the expiration of that period, having inherited three hundred and thirty five acres of land as his share of his father's estate, he took up his abode thereon and has since

devoted his attention to its further cultivation. The property is on section 16, Morning Sun township, and the many substantial improvements thereon, including a handsome residence, stand as monuments to the enterprise and industry of the owner. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he makes a specialty of feeding shorthorn cattle and also ships hogs on an extensive scale, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income.

On the 15th of August, 1876, Mr. Umphrey was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary B. Copeland, a daughter of William and Harriet (Jarvis) Copeland, whose family numbered three children, namely: Atwood, who is a resident of Los Angeles, California; Caroline A., living at Morning Sun; and Mrs. Umphrey. The last named became the mother of seven children, as follows: James, of Morning Sun township; Dayton, living in Washington; Eber, who is at home; Hazel, the wife of Henry Swope, of Wapello; Willa, Loie and Geoffrey, all at home. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 11th of February, 1908.

In politics Mr. Umphrey is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Church of God. Having resided in this county throughout his entire life, covering a period of six decades, he is well and favorably known here and is widely recognized as an upright and honorable citizen.

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#### ROBERT F. SMYLIE.

A history of Louisa county would not be complete without mention of the young men who are coming to the front as important factors in its development. In the number deserving of a place in this work should be named Robert F. Smylie, the owner of a well improved farm in Columbus City township. He was born in Washington county, Iowa, July 17, 1885, a son of Josiah T. and Phoebe (Orris) Smylie. The parents are both natives of Iowa and are now living in Columbus City. There were two children in their family: Gertrude, who is the wife of Ira Oats, of Louisa county; and Robert F., of this review.

In the public schools Robert F. Smylie secured the foundation of his educational training. Later he attended the academy at Washington, Iowa, where he took a commercial course. After returning home he engaged in farming on his father's place for two years and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Columbus City township upon which he has made a number of improvements. He is a general farmer but specializes in raising Duroc Jersey hogs.

On the 20th of December, 1906, Mr. Smylie was married to Miss Mabel Duncan, a daughter of John Calvin and Martha (Sands) Duncan. The grandparents of Mrs. Smylie were John and Rachel (Duncan) Duncan. They were natives of Tennessee and emigrated to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1846, during the



pioneer period. Here the grandfather located upon two hundred acres of prairie land two miles west of Columbus City where he passed the remainder of his days. He died at the age of seventy-six, his wife having previously been called away at the age of fifty-five years. There were ten children in their family, three of whom survive: Francis M., who is engaged in farming in Union township; Robert Nelson, who lives in Columbus City; and John Calvin. John Calvin Duncan was born in Tennessee September 6, 1845, and was brought by his parents to Louisa county in his infancy. At the outbreak of the Civil war he was sixteen years of age but was accepted as a soldier for the Union and served faithfully under the stars and stripes, participating in many of the leading battles, and movements in the south. After receiving his honorable discharge he returned to this county and devoted his attention to farming, acquiring the title to one hundred and seventy acres of good land. He sold his farm in 1908 and retired at Columbus City where he owns a comfortable home and another dwelling house, being also the owner of a number of town lots. He was twice married, his first wife being called away April 20, 1876. In 1881 he was married to Miss Martha Sands, a daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (McCall) Sands. Mr. and Mrs. Sands were natives of Tennessee. They were among the early settlers of Wapello county, Iowa, and in their family were nine children, namely: William McCall, Henry, John, Amanda and Eliza, all of whom are deceased; Elizabeth, who is the wife of F. M. Duncan, of Louisa county; Zachariah and Francis, both of whom reside in Wapello county; and Martha, who became Mrs. John Calvin Duncan and is the mother of two children, Nathaniel, who now lives in Columbus City, and Mabel, now Mrs. Robert F. Smylie. Two children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smylie: Martha Ellen, who was born October 6, 1908; and Farrell Duncan, born November 12, 1910.

Mr. Smylie adheres to the democratic party, believing that its principles are better adapted to subserve the interests of the republic than those of any other political organization. His religious belief is indicated by membership in the United Presbyterian church. The success he has attained is mainly the result of his sound judgment and untiring energy and it is believed by those who are best acquainted with his abilities that the future holds for him many additional victories.

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#### B. M. ROBERTS.

B. M. Roberts, who engages in general farming and stock-raising in Union township, was born in Muscatine county on the 12th of May, 1863, and is the only child born to Moses M. and Fannie Roberts. The father is a native of New Hampshire and the mother of Iowa, but they were married in the latter state, where for many years Mr. Roberts was engaged in agricultural pursuits upon the old homestead where his son is now living. He is still living at the age of seventy-five years and now makes his home in Winfield, Iowa, where he is living retired.



In the acquirement of his education B. M. Roberts attended the common schools, while assisting his father with the work of the farm. After laying aside his text-books he gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits, and at the present time he is engaged in the operation of his father's farm, which contains one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 6, Union township.

On the 18th of August, 1886, Mr. Roberts was married to Miss Mary E. Wallace, who was born in Washington county, Iowa, and is a daughter of William and Margaret Wallace. Her father is a native of Ohio, and her mother of Iowa. They were married in Washington county, where for many years Mr. Wallace was engaged in agricultural pursuits. Since the death of his wife in June, 1908, he has been living a retired life on his old homestead in Louisa county. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace: Seigel, who is residing in Iowa City; Mary E., now Mrs. Roberts; and James P., who is a resident of Rock Island, Illinois.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts did number seven but one is now deceased. They are as follows: Della May, who was born in July, 1887, and is now the wife of John Waltz, of Louisa county; William M., born in 1889; Sadie P., in February, 1894; James M., in January, 1898; Daisy M., in July, 1899; Bonnie P., in May, 1905; and Albert Leo, who died in infancy.

Mr. Roberts always votes with the republican party but has never been an office seeker. Although progressive and public spirited in matters of citizenship he has never felt that the discharge of his duties necessitated public service.

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### WILLIAM L. ARTHUR.

Louisa county presents an inviting field for agriculture and stock-breeding and among the men who are devoting their talents to those branches in this county are some of the most worthy citizens of the state. In the number should be named William L. Arthur, who was born on a farm in this county, January 23, 1869, and has here spent his entire life. He is a son of Hugh and Elizabeth J. (Jones) Arthur, the father a native of Wales and the mother of Ohio. Mr. Arthur, Sr., was for many years a farmer of Louisa county. He died January 25, 1896, but the mother is still living and resides at Cotter. There were eight children in their family, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: Sarah Jane, who is now deceased; William L., of this review; Evan H., John and Richard, all of whom are living in Louisa county; and Catharine, who makes her home at Cotter.

William L. Arthur received advantages of education in the common schools and grew to manhood in the paternal home. At the age of twenty-two years he began renting land of his father on his own account and continued for twelve years, at the end of which time the father purchased eighty acres, which he presented his son, later giving ten acres of timberland. He carries on general farming and, being a fancier of fine stock, raises blooded shorthorn cattle and also

has two registered Percheron horses, named respectively Minnie's Pride and Imperial Brilliant. His various activities have brought him gratifying success and he is classed among the substantial men in this section of the county.

On March 5, 1891, Mr. Arthur was married to Miss Nellie B. Davis, a daughter of J. R. and Jane Florence (Word) Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of five children. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Hugh, Clifford, Milo, Florence, Edith, Luther, Ludor, Elizabeth Ann and Richard John, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Arthur votes in support of the republican party, being of the firm opinion that the principles of this party are highly important in promoting the welfare of the nation. He belongs to the Woodmen and the Odd Fellows and has taken great interest in the work of the latter organization, having passed through all the chairs of the subordinate lodge, also being a member of the encampment. His religious faith is indicated by membership in the Methodist church. Wide-awake and enterprising he has been successful as a farmer and breeder and there is scarcely a possibility of doubt that in years to come he will advance to larger responsibilities in his calling.

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#### WILLIAM STEWART DRAKE.

The old family homestead in Wapello township was the birthplace of William Stewart Drake who is now one of the well known farmers of Louisa county and his natal day was March 10, 1870. He is a son of Jonathan C. and Mary (Hoffman) Drake, the former of whom was born in Indiana, May 10, 1822, and the latter in Pennsylvania, October 31, 1843. The father was one of the early settlers of Louisa county, arriving here in 1837. He located on one hundred and sixty acres of wild land and broke the prairie with oxen, being obliged to endure many of the trials and privations of pioneer days. He persevered manfully and became the owner of five hundred and ten acres of good land, also gaining a reputation as one of the reliable citizens of the county. He died April 14, 1903, being then in his eighty-first year, his wife having been called away April 10, 1902. There were four children in their family: Rhoda C., who married A. T. Ball, of Louisa county; William Stewart, of this sketch; Nellie M., deceased; and Eva F., who is the wife of W. S. Gunnels, of Louisa county.

William Stewart Drake possessed good advantages of education in the common schools. As he grew to manhood he remained with his parents, it being necessary for him to assist his father on account of the increasing infirmities of the latter. He inherited his portion of the estate after the death of his father and subsequently purchased land of the other heirs, so that at the present time he is the owner of a beautiful farm of two hundred and eighty acres which he manages to excellent advantage. He carries on agriculture and also is a general stock-raiser, feeding and shipping cattle and hogs for the market. His farm

is located on sections 28 and 29 and his residence is one of the pleasing features of the landscape.

On November 5, 1891, Mr. Drake was married to Miss Emma A. Shipman, a daughter of P. O. and Orlena Shipman, and to them one child, Wilbur, was born, who is now living at home with his father. Mrs. Drake died May 5, 1893, and Mr. Drake was married August 26, 1897, to Miss Carrie Hoffman, a daughter of Johnson and Mary (Mitchell) Hoffman, who were the parents of seven children, namely: Myrtle O., who died in infancy; Carrie, now Mrs. William S. Drake; Pearl A., who lives in Des Moines; Charles C., of Moravia; Edward K., of Nebraska; Floyd J., who lives near Monmouth, Illinois; and Bert, at home.

Politically Mr. Drake yields a willing allegiance to the democratic party, believing that its principles are in accord with the best interests of the entire country. In religious belief he adheres to the Methodist church. His agricultural operations have been conducted with thoroughness and skill and his home is one of comfort and happiness, being the center of genuine hospitality. He has contributed his part toward the progress of his section and his record has been that of a praiseworthy citizen and an honest man.

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### J. L. BAKER.

A well cultivated farm in Columbus City township pays tribute to the industry of J. L. Baker, who for over thirty years has been actively connected with the development of this section of the county. He was born in Kentucky March 10, 1851, a son of William and Matilda (Gullette) Baker, both of whom were natives of Georgia. The father was a farmer and believing that conditions were more favorable in the north than in the slave states where he was reared, he came with his family to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1853 and lived only a year after arriving in this county. There were five children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Baker, the subject of this review being the youngest. The others are: Julia, who is the wife of W. P. Marsden, of Columbus City; Thomas A., who is now living in Oklahoma; Louisa C., the widow of W. K. Moore, of Columbus Junction; and Dulcina L., who is the widow of J. Heindel, of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Baker was twice married, her second husband being W. W. Paschall. By her second marriage she became the mother of one son, D. R. Paschall, who is now living in Des Moines.

J. L. Baker was brought to Louisa county by his parents in his infancy and possessed limited advantages of education in the district schools, being obliged to go to work on a farm at the age of eleven years. However, he has always possessed good powers of observation and as he has kept well informed as to the world's events, he has largely overcome the unavoidable lack of early school training. When he was about twenty years of age he went to Colorado and later to Kansas, spending two years in the Sunflower state as a cowboy. Desiring to see more of the world he visited New Orleans and remained there

for three years. At the end of this time, having decided to settle down in life, he returned to Louisa county and rented sixty acres of land. In 1878 he bought eighty acres in Columbus City township and has cleared away the timber and made many improvements, thus greatly adding to the value of the place. He is a general farmer and also raises shorthorn cattle for the market, his labors yielding a substantial annual revenue.

On the 29th of November, 1878, Mr. Baker was married to Miss Ella Barrington, a daughter of Abraham and Catharine (McCoy) Barrington, and they have five children: Frank G., who is now a traveling man and resides at Columbus Junction; Ralph E., who is a graduate of the engineering department of Iowa State College at Ames and is now living in Chicago; Lyle T., of Louisa county; and Julia Alice and William Harland, both of whom are at home.

In politics Mr. Baker is an earnest supporter of the republican party and his religious belief is indicated by membership in the Methodist church. Having as a boy been thrown upon his own resources, he early acquired a knowledge of the world and by practical application of the lessons he learned in his youth he developed a steadfast and persevering character. He owes his success to his own efforts seconded by the encouragement of a faithful wife who has been to him at all times an inspiration and to her children a true and devoted mother. They have a pleasant and attractive home and are well known and held in high regard by the entire community.

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#### CHARLES F. SWYGARD.

Charles F. Swygard, a general farmer and stockman of Des Moines county, was born in a log cabin on section 32, Elliott township, Louisa county, on the 23d of March, 1868. His parents are Frederick W. and Helena (Jugenheimer) Swygard, natives of Germany. The father, who is now seventy-eight years of age, makes his home in Mediapolis, but the mother passed away on the 26th of January, 1911. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: William H., a resident of Mediapolis; John P., who is also living in Mediapolis; Anna M., the wife of Henry Todd, of Wheatland, Oklahoma; Charles F., the subject of this sketch; James E., a resident of Colfax, Washington; Mary M., the wife of Frank Nelson, of Mediapolis; and Deborah E., who married J. B. Loper, of Oakville.

The boyhood and youth of Charles F. Swygard were very similar to those of other boys of the time and of like circumstances who lived in the country. His education was obtained in the district schools of Iowa, and after mastering the common branches he laid aside his text-books and devoted his entire time and attention to the cultivation of the home farm until he was thirty-two years of age. Owing to the state of his health he then left the farm and went to Mediapolis, where he remained a year, and then worked out as a farm hand for eight years. In 1908 he bought the old homestead of one hundred and sixty

acres, upon which he is now residing. He has made many improvements in the property during the period of his ownership and engages in general farming and stock-raising.

On the 28th of December, 1892, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Swygard and Miss Carrie L. Hummel, of Peoria, Illinois. Mrs. Swygard was a daughter of Thomas and Frederica (Berges) Hummel, who had ten children: Lewis; Thomas, a resident of Peoria; Herman, Fred and Henry, also living in Peoria; Catherine, who married B. Swygard, of Burlington, Iowa; Carrie L., the wife of Charles F. Swygard; Ida, who married Otto Bender, of Peoria; Augusta, the wife of L. D. McAfee, also of Peoria; and John, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Swygard have four children, as follows: Edith S., who was born on the 24th of October, 1893; Frederick H., whose birth occurred on the 21st of August, 1897; Dorothea L., born on the 30th of September, 1900; and Lawrence E., born on the 30th of August, 1902.

The religious faith of the family is manifested by their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally Mr. Swygard affiliates with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given the republican party, for whose candidates he always casts his ballot. He has held some of the minor township offices and is now president of the school board. A large portion of his life has been spent in the community where he is now residing and where he has many friends.

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#### HEZEKIAH M. GRIFFITH.

Hezekiah M. Griffith, who is favorably known as a successful farmer of Louisa county and fully deserves the high regard in which he is held, is a native of Madison county, New York, born October 8, 1873. He is a son of Thomas H. and Esther (Jones) Griffith, both of whom were born in Wales. The father came to Iowa with his family about thirty years ago and rented land until 1893, when he purchased two hundred and ten acres in Columbus City township, where he and his wife are now living. Their family consisted of twelve children, namely: Mary, who is the wife of W. B. Morse, of New York state; Jane, Elizabeth and John, all of whom are deceased; David, who makes his home at Winfield, Iowa; Gordon and Thomas, who are also deceased; Daniel, of Ainsworth, Iowa; Maggie, who is the wife of D. E. Owen, of Cotter; Edward, who lives in Columbus Junction; Hezekiah M., of this review; and Hettie, who is at home.

Early in his boyhood Hezekiah M. Griffith was brought by his parents to this country. He received his education in the public schools and after laying his books aside continued on the old homestead, of which he is now in charge. He engages in general farming and has a fine herd of Shropshire sheep, any one of which has the appearance of a prize winner. He also raises graded cattle and hogs and, as he takes great pride in his stock, his operations produce very

satisfactory results and he ranks as one of the progressive farmers of the township.

Politically Mr. Griffith is a stalwart republican but not through any desire to share in the emoluments of office, as he has never sought a public position of any kind. In religious belief he adheres to the Congregational church, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, whose principles of kindness and fellowship he greatly admires. Through life he has been actuated by principles of helpfulness to others and it is doubtful whether Louisa county contains a more worthy citizen than Hezekiah M. Griffith.

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#### D. G. LEWIS.

D. G. Lewis, who comes of English and Welsh parentage and is identified with farming in Louisa county, has in the course of an active and successful experience shown many of the admirable traits of worthy ancestry and is justly regarded with high respect by those who know him. He was born in Oneida county, New York, October 23, 1853, a son of George and Margaret (Jones) Lewis, the former a native of England and the latter of Wales. The father was a shoemaker by trade and came to America at the age of twenty-three years, taking up his residence temporarily in New York state. In 1857 he arrived in Louisa county, Iowa, with his family and continued at his trade in this county during the remainder of his life. He died October 14, 1909, his wife having been called away June 27, 1904.

At the age of four years D. G. Lewis, the only child of his parents, was brought to Louisa county and has ever since made his home in Iowa. He attended the district schools and at the age of nineteen, being ambitious to advance as rapidly as possible, he rented land on his own account, which he cultivated for three years. He then bought eighty acres in Washington county and has managed his affairs so successfully that he is now the owner of one hundred and thirty acres on section 10, Columbus City township. He is a general farmer and stock-raiser and has shown an energy and ability in his calling which have produced very gratifying returns.

On the 22d of December, 1875, Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Alice Jones, a daughter of D. M. and Elizabeth (Jones) Jones. The parents were both born in Wales and are now deceased. There were six children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Jones: Elizabeth and Catherine, both of whom are deceased; Alice, now Mrs. D. G. Lewis; Robert T., who lives at Cotter; William, who was killed at the battle of Atlanta, Georgia, while fighting for the Union; and Albert, who died at the age of seven years. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, namely: William G., who lives in Washington county, Iowa; Walter J., who is at home; Alice Maud, who married John D. Evans, of Elm Grove township; and Elizabeth Jane, also at home.

Mr. Lewis gives his adherence to the republican party, in which he has been an active worker for many years. He has served for eight years as township assessor, for ten years as township trustee and for ten years as member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a member of the lodge and of Encampment No. 112. In religious belief he affiliates with the Congregational church. Oakdale farm, the name of Mr. Lewis' homestead, is one of the attractive places of Columbus City township and the air of neatness and thrift that prevails speaks in no uncertain language as to the taste and good judgment of the owner. He is a public-spirited and patriotic citizen and responds with alacrity to every movement seeking to promote the welfare of the community. It is to such men that Louisa county owes its high reputations as one of the most flourishing sections of the state.

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#### WILSON ROBB.

Wilson Robb, who is engaged in the cultivation of sixty acres of land on section 16, Morning Sun township, was born in Clarke county, Iowa, on the 25th of February, 1875, his parents being Wilson and Jane L. Robb. The father was a native of Indiana and the mother of Ohio but they early came to Iowa and are now living in Osceola. Unto them were born nine children: Ernest, a resident of Decatur county, Iowa; Cora, who became the wife of T. Shelton, of Osceola; Jennie, the wife of Isaac Norman, of Decatur county; Forrest, who is living in Nebraska; Wilson, our subject; Hattie, who married William Clyde, of Nebraska; Jay, who was in the United States navy; Charles, deceased; and one who died in infancy. The father, who was a Protestant minister, enlisted in the United States army, where he served as sergeant for three years, being discharged at the end of that time because of disability.

The education of Wilson Robb, Jr., was quite limited as at the age of thirteen years he laid aside his text-books and became a wage-earner. As he had begun driving a team when he was nine, he was quite well qualified to become a farm hand when he left home. Energetic and thrifty, he carefully saved his wages until he had acquired sufficient means to enable him to buy forty-five acres in Morning Sun township, which he cultivated for a year. At the expiration of that time he traded it for forty acres in Newport, Iowa, upon which he erected a house and wrought various other improvements. He disposed of this property at the end of two years by exchanging it for ninety-six acres in Wapello township, which he cultivated for a year. This place he subsequently traded for a farm in Newport, which he cultivated for seven years and then again purchased his first tract. Later he disposed of all of his holdings and removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he resided for two years, following which he bought sixty acres in Morning Sun township, on which he settled in March, 1911, and is now engaged in general farming and stock-raising.



Mr. Robb was married on the 8th of November, 1893, to Miss Mary Pearl Jamison, a daughter of J. W. and Rachel (Vaughn) Jamison. The father is one of the extensive landowners and successful agriculturists of Jefferson township. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jamison, as follows: Tuttle G., who is now a resident of Oakville, Iowa; Isaac, who is living in Morning Sun; Hulda J., the wife of D. Kremer, of Wapello; Minerva, who married T. A. Dotson, of Louisa county; and Mary, now Mrs. Wilson Robb. Mr. and Mrs. Robb have had five children, who in order of birth are as follows: Lizzi Ita, whose twin brother died in infancy; Celecie D., Oma May and Brigham Orval, all of whom are at home.

The religious views of the family are manifested through their affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally Mr. Robb is identified with the Eagles. In politics he has always given his allegiance to the candidates of the republican party. Never having aspired to public honors or the emoluments of office, he has not prominently figured in township affairs, having preferred to concentrate his time and attention upon the development of his personal interests.

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### JAMES R. DAVIS.

Among the well known citizens of foreign birth who make their homes in Iowa may be named James R. Davis who is now living retired at Columbus Junction. He is in the seventy-third year of his age and is enjoying at leisure the fruits of many years of industry, in the course of which he ably attempted to perform his part. He was born in Wales October 15, 1838, a son of David G. and Eleanor (Jones) Davis, both of whom were also natives of Wales. The father came to America with his family in 1841 and located in Butler county, Ohio, where he engaged in the blacksmith's trade. He and his wife are both deceased. In their family were six children: David, deceased; Mary, who is now the wife of Newton Beal, of Butler county; Sarah, who married Richard Howe, of Hartwell, Ohio; Evan, who is now living in Van Wert county, Ohio; James R., of this review; and Margaret, deceased.

James R. Davis was brought to the United States by his parents at the age of three years and in the public schools he secured the elements of an education. Upon arriving at the age of fifteen years he was apprenticed for three years to the blacksmith's trade and he continued at the anvil until after the outbreak of the Civil war. Actuated by a spirit of loyalty to his adopted country he enlisted October 15, 1861, in Company H, Fifth Ohio Cavalry, and served most creditably as a soldier for the Union during a period of eight months, at the close of which he was honorably discharged at Corinth, Mississippi, on account of physical disability. After laying aside the accouterments of war he returned to peaceful pursuits at Hamilton, Ohio, and continued to reside in the Buckeye state until July, 1890, when he came to Columbus Junction, Iowa, where he has



since made his home. He engaged at his trade in this place for four years and then on account of failing health retired from active labor.

Mr. Davis married Miss Jane F. Wood, and to this union five children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The others were Nellie, who is the wife of W. Arthur, of Louisa county; John, who is now living in Nebraska; and Edith and Sarah, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Davis cast his first vote in behalf of the republican party and he is still a steadfast adherent of that organization. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and by virtue of wearing the blue at the time of the Civil war is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic, many of his best friends being connected with that order. Always industrious, enterprising and straightforward in his business relations, he is justly entitled to respect and is regarded as one of the substantial and trustworthy citizens of Columbus Junction.

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#### GEORGE R. DEIHL.

George R. Deihl, who has lived retired in Wapello since 1896, was successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and is still the owner of five hundred acres of valuable land in Louisa county. His birth occurred in this county on the 27th of October, 1857, his parents being John and Margaret (Jamison) Deihl, the former a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. John Deihl, who was born on the 21st of November, 1808, came to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1836, purchasing and locating on a tract of land comprising one hundred and sixty acres. He won a gratifying measure of prosperity in the conduct of his agricultural interests and added to his holdings by purchase from time to time until at his death he owned twelve hundred acres of rich and productive land. In 1845 he visited his native state on horseback, riding via Chicago. When he passed away on the 16th of September, 1878, the community mourned the loss of one of its most substantial and esteemed citizens.

George R. Deihl attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and at the time of his father's demise took charge of the home farm, which later came into his possession. The further cultivation and improvement of that property claimed his attention throughout his active business career and his undertakings as an agriculturist were attended with excellent results. He still owns five hundred acres of well improved land—all under a high state of cultivation. In 1896 he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Wapello, where he has since lived in honorable retirement. He has, however, made several trips west to the coast and has also sojourned in the east. Mr. Deihl is a stockholder and director of the State Savings Bank of Wapello.

On the 1st of January, 1880, Mr. Deihl was united in marriage to Miss Eva E. Dotson, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Basil and Mary (Davison) Dotson, who were born in Pennsylvania and England respectively. They

came to this county in 1844 and here spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Dotson passing away in March, 1872, while his wife was called to her final rest in April, 1896. Their union was blessed with fourteen children, seven of whom are yet living. Mrs. Deihl was the youngest member of the family. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children, as follows: Blanch A., the wife of Stephen Pandel, of Louisa county; John D., the cashier of the State Savings Bank of Wapello; J. Ross, who was graduated from business college and is now an employe of Armour & Company of Chicago; Frank W., who is now a high school student; and Margaret M.

In politics Mr. Deihl is a republican and his fellow townsmen have chosen him for public office. He has ably served on the board of supervisors and has been connected with the school board for fifteen years. Both he and his wife are well and favorably known throughout the county in which they have spent their entire lives, the circle of their friends being almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

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### C. P. WALKER.

One of Louisa county's agriculturists who donned the blue and went to the front in those perilous days in the '60s is C. P. Walker, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, on the 13th of April, 1843. He is a son of Francis S. and Catherine (Percy) Walker, natives of Virginia and Tennessee respectively, both of whom have passed away. They were the parents of eight children, in order of birth as follows: Vashti, the widow of John Edgar, of Henry county; Leander, deceased; Louvini, of New Mexico; Rebecca, deceased; William P., of Missouri; C. P., our subject; Clarinda Ann, the wife of William Edgar, of Henry county; and Maggie, the wife of Jesse Vaughn, of Sioux City.

C. P. Walker came to Iowa with his family in 1856, locating in Henry county, where he worked as a farm hand for one year, and then went to Des Moines county, where he remained for five years. At the expiration of that period he returned to Henry county, where he continued to reside until the 22d of November, 1862, when he enlisted in the Union army, going to the front with the Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry. He was sent from Helena, Arkansas, to Chicago with rebel prisoners, and from the latter city he went to Vicksburg, where he joined General Sherman, participating in the siege of that southern stronghold. On the 15th of August, 1865, he was mustered out at Houston, Texas, and was paid off on the 22d of September, 1865, at Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Walker was at Fort Morgan when Farragut ran the blockade and captured the Confederate ironclad, Tennessee.

After receiving his discharge he returned to Henry county, Iowa, where he farmed an eighty acre tract which he rented for three years. At the end of that time he was married and subsequently went to Nebraska, where he resided for a year. Returning to Iowa in 1869, he rented one hundred and twenty acres

for fourteen years and then went to Texas for a year. In 1884 he came to Louisa county, where he purchased three hundred acres of land, but he has since disposed of all but fifty-seven acres, upon which he continues to reside. He has placed all of the improvements upon his property and is engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

On the 4th of July, 1868, Mr. Walker was united in marriage to Miss Ruth E. Fox, and by this union there were born eight children, as follows: Samuel N., a resident of Louisa county; Everna, the wife of E. C. Frazelle, of Clark county; Albert, deceased; Thomas, at home; Leander, also of Louisa county; Flossie, who married John Russell, of this county; James G., at home; and John, deceased. The wife and mother passed away in December, 1890, and for his second wife Mr. Walker chose Mrs. Sarah A. (Houseman) Edgar, the widow of Thomas Edgar. She is a daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Spearman) Houseman, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Kentucky, both now deceased. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: John, a resident of Nebraska; James; Sarah A., now Mrs. Walker; Elvira, the wife of William Hill, of Henry county; Alice, who married John Crane, also of Henry county; Belle, deceased; Charles, also deceased; Alva, a resident of Wyoming; and William, who is living in Canada. Mrs. Walker had eight children by her first husband: Jennie, the wife of Thomas Buckingham, of Henry county; Harry, of Seattle, Washington; Frank, who is living at Lowell, Iowa; Mattie, the wife of Bar Mossdropp, of Henry county; Arbie; Arthur, of Henry county; Susan, who married Claud Wilson, also of Henry county; and Charles, of Des Moines county. Mrs. Edgar became Mrs. Walker on the 6th of July, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker affiliate with the Christian church, and he is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. His first vote he cast for Abraham Lincoln on a steamer on the Mississippi river, and his political allegiance has ever since been given to the republican party. He has never participated in public affairs, not being an aspirant for office, but when his services are needed in the support of any just or worthy cause he is ever found to be as willing and loyal in his allegiance as he was in the '60s.

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### JAMES GARLAND UMPHREY.

James Garland Umphrey, an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser of Morning Sun township, was born in Louisa county on the 30th of September, 1878. His parents, Thomas J. and Mary B. (Copeland) Umphrey, are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. He attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and on attaining his majority started out as an agriculturist on his own account, renting a tract of land comprising fifty acres. Since that time he has devoted his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising with excellent results.

On the 3d of October, 1907, Mr. Umphrey was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Ruth Hupp, a daughter of Ezra and Elizabeth (Doty) Hupp. The father still survives and makes his home in Wapello but the mother has passed away. Their children were three in number, namely: Belle, the wife of F. B. Tierley, of Portland, Oregon; Ethel, who gave her hand in marriage to George Nicholas and also resides in Portland, Oregon; and Mrs. Umphrey.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Umphrey has supported the men and measures of the democracy, believing firmly in its principles. In religious faith he is a Methodist. In the community where his entire life has been spent the circle of his friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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### ROBERT F. DUNCAN.

Robert F. Duncan is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Louisa county and was here born on the 24th of August, 1844. His parents were J. Kennedy and Margaret (Johnson) Duncan, natives of Tennessee, who on coming to Iowa in 1840 settled in Louisa county where the father entered land from the government. It was a frontier district to which he came and the family had to meet all of the experiences and hardships of pioneer life. Much of the district was a wild, uncultivated prairie, and not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the land which J. K. Duncan acquired. However he at once began transforming the tract into well tilled fields and for years successfully carried on farming adding to his property at different times until he was the owner of six hundred acres, all in this county. He also engaged quite extensively in stock-raising. Unto him and his wife were born eight children: Catharine, now deceased; S. H., a resident of Louisa county; Sarah J., who has also passed away; Robert F., Isabella J., the widow of J. W. Oates of Columbus Junction; J. J., also living in Columbus Junction; and twins who died in infancy.

Robert F. Duncan was early trained to the work of the farm and in the public schools of the neighborhood acquired his education, but his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited as Iowa did not at that time have a school system which equaled that of the present day. He was twenty-five years of age when he started out in business for himself, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land which he immediately began to cultivate. Close application and hard work brought the usual reward and as a result he was able to extend the boundaries of his farm until he owned two hundred acres. In connection with tilling the soil he bought and sold stock and found this branch of his business so profitable that he decided to discontinue general agricultural pursuits and devote his entire time to the purchase and sale of cattle. Selling his farm, in 1878 he removed to Columbus Junction where he bought a lot and erected a substantial two-story residence which he has since made his home. Some years ago his hearing began to fail and for a considerable period he used an ear trum-

pet. But feeling that the time was coming when even this would not suffice, he determined to learn the movement of the lips and thus interpret the speech of others while it was yet possible for him to hear in some degree. In this way he seems to have developed what might be termed a sixth sense for although his hearing has now totally gone he can read the movement of another's lips so deftly that he can carry on business transactions and take part in ordinary conversation. He possesses a very pleasant and genial disposition, greatly enjoying the humorous feature of any situation, and his many good qualities have gained for him the warm regard and friendship of all with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Duncan was united in marriage on the 9th of March, 1870, to Miss Melissa Bobo, a daughter of Jacob and Rosanna (Wren) Bobo, the latter a native of Pennsylvania while the former was born and reared in Ohio. In the Bobo family were twelve children: Sarah, now the wife of Henry Elliott, of Colorado; Filena, the wife of James O'Connor, of Columbus; four who died in infancy; Michael, Minda and Allan, who are also deceased; Melissa, now Mrs. Duncan; Harrison, who resides in Davenport; and Anis, the wife of Samuel Edmonson, of Muscatine, Iowa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have been born three children: Ollie, now the wife of Clarence Sherer; Viola, the wife of Richard Wilcox; and Ella, the wife of Thomas Hendrickson. All are residents of Columbus Junction.

Mr. Duncan gives his political support to the democratic party of which he has been an advocate since age conferred upon him right of franchise. Both he and his wife are members of the Reformed church and in its membership they have many friends. Mr. Duncan is regarded as a most trustworthy and honorable business man, conducting all business transactions with regard to the rights of others, and thus he has gained the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been associated. Few men are more familiar with the history of Louisa county than he for through more than two-thirds of a century he has witnessed its growth and development. He has seen the wild lands transformed into productive farms, villages grow into thriving towns, while churches and schools have been established and business enterprises of many kinds have been introduced all contributing to its prosperity. In the work of upbuilding he has borne his part to the extent of his ability and the capable management of his business affairs has ranked him with the men of affluence in his community.

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#### S. A. KUNTZ.

S. A. Kuntz, who has been a resident of Oakville for the past three years, during which time he has been engaged in the operation of a machine shop, was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 10th of April, 1881. His parents, Christian and Amelia (Smith) Kuntz, were both natives of Germany, from which country they emigrated to America. Upon their arrival they located in

Illinois but in 1904 removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, settling upon a farm, in the cultivation of which the father has ever since been engaged. Of the thirteen children born to them twelve are still living.

Reared in the country, S. A. Kuntz acquired his education in the common schools of Illinois and Iowa, remaining a member of the paternal household until he was twenty-one. Always having lived upon a farm, in the work of which he had engaged from his earliest boyhood, his duties increasing as his strength and ability developed with the passing years, Mr. Kuntz first engaged in farming as a vocation. For the first three years after leaving home he rented one of his father's farms, which he cultivated. At the expiration of that period, however, he disposed of his interests and learned the boilermaker's trade. In 1908 he came to Oakville, where he bought a machine shop, and has since continued to reside here. He repairs all kinds of machinery and does some manufacturing in a small way, his efforts having been rewarded with very good results.

Mr. Kuntz was married in 1903 to Miss Mary Berger, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois, and unto them has been born three children: Olivia, Milton and Dorothy. Mr. Kuntz is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Mrs. Kuntz is affiliated with the Amish church. His political views coincide with the principles of the republican party, for whose candidates he always casts his ballot, but he does not actively participate in civic affairs as he feels that the development of his business requires his undivided attention.

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#### R. H. DUNCAN.

The cultivation of a farm of one hundred and four and a half acres occupies the time and attention of R. H. Duncan, who is a resident of Union township, Louisa county. He was born in the township where he now resides on the 1st of December, 1874, and is a son of F. M. and Elizabeth (Sands) Duncan, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Iowa. The parents came to Louisa county in 1847 and settled on a farm west of Columbus City. To them were born eight children: J. Carter, a resident of Columbus Junction; Melvin, deceased; William Nelson, an agriculturist of Union township; Ida M., the wife of Harry Edwards, also of this county; R. H., our subject; Frank, who is living in Columbus Junction; Earl, deceased; and Jesse, also a resident of this county.

R. H. Duncan obtained his education in the common schools in the vicinity of the home farm on which he was reared. After laying aside his studies he began preparing himself for the vocation which he is now following by assisting his father with the work of the farm. When he attained his majority he left the parental roof and began operating rented land. In 1907 he bought the farm upon which he is now residing and which contains one hundred and four and a half acres of land, located on section 3, Union township.

In 1901 Mr. Duncan married Miss Frances Crim, who was born in Louisa county and is a daughter of George W. and Frances (Butcher) Crim, also natives of this county. Her mother passed away in December, 1879, and her father on the 8th of February, 1901. They had two daughters, Catharine, who is unmarried; and Frances, now Mrs. Duncan. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan has been blessed by four children: Merle L., who was born on the 17th of November, 1901; Roy V., born on the 19th of April, 1903; Armilla V., born on the 2d of October, 1904; and Reuben C., whose birth occurred on the 23d of December, 1906.

Fraternally Mr. Duncan is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in the lodge at Columbus Junction, and politically he is a republican but has never been an office seeker, always having preferred to give his undivided attention to the development of his private interests.

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### JOHN ARTHUR.

John Arthur, who devotes his attention to farming and live stock interests, is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of rich and productive land on section 28, Columbus City township. His birth occurred in Louisa county on the 31st of May, 1877, his parents being Hugh and Elizabeth (Jones) Arthur, the former a native of Wales and the latter of Ohio. Hugh Arthur, who for many years was numbered among the successful agriculturists of this county, passed away on the 25th of January, 1896. His widow makes her home at Cotter. Unto them were born eight children, six of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Sarah Jane, who is now deceased; William L., a farmer and stockman of Columbus City township; Evan H. and Richard, who are residents of Louisa county; John, of this review; and Catharine, living at Cotter.

John Arthur was reared to manhood under the parental roof and attended the common schools in pursuit of an education. When twenty-three years of age he started out in life as an agriculturist on his own account, farming the old homestead property. He now owns one hundred and ninety acres of valuable land on section 28, Columbus City township, and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them. He also devotes considerable attention to the raising of horses and hogs, which branch of his business adds materially to his income.

On the 28th of December, 1901, Mr. Arthur was united in marriage to Miss Anna Peters, a native of Wales and a daughter of Richard and Winifred Peters, who were likewise born in that country. They emigrated to the United States when their daughter Anna was but a child and are still residents of Louisa county, Iowa. Our subject and his wife have two children, Hugh S. and Grace.

Mr. Arthur gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now serving as a school director. Fraternally he is identified with the Independ-



ent Order of Odd Fellows at Cotter, and both he and his wife are devoted members of the Reformed church. He has resided in Louisa county from his birth to the present time and enjoys the warm regard and friendship of all who know him.

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### JOHN FRANK HUPP.

John Frank Hupp, whose attention from earliest boyhood has been turned in the direction of agricultural pursuits, was born in Louisa county on the 14th of August, 1882. His father, John C. Hupp, was a native of Pennsylvania but for many years was numbered among the earnest and hard-working farmers of Morning Sun township, where he passed away in October, 1883. The mother, who prior to her marriage was Delia A. Jones, is also deceased. In the family were four children, but the two eldest died in infancy, those surviving are: Horace, whose birth occurred on the 2d of July, 1879; and John Frank, our subject.

The education of John Frank Hupp, who was only a little more than a year of age when his father passed away, was acquired in the district schools in the vicinity of the family homestead. Early trained to habits of thrift and industry he has ever been enterprising and energetic. Owing to the early widowhood of his mother, both he and his brother had to assume the duties and responsibilities which really belong to men when still quite young lads. They now own and operate the old homestead, which contains one hundred and twenty acres of arable land, in connection with the cultivation of which they also raise cattle and hogs. Their fields are well drained and tilled, all being under a high state of cultivation, while they have sufficient room in barn and sheds to provide adequate shelter for their stock, grain and implements. The improvements upon the place are substantial and in good condition and the grounds are neatly kept, this making the farm one of the attractive properties of Morning Sun township.

Both John F. Hupp and his brother affiliate with the Presbyterian church, and his political support is given to the republican party, but he has never been an office seeker. He is one of the industrious and capable young agriculturists of the township, among whose citizens he numbers many friends.

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### WALTER F. MARSDEN.

It speaks well for any section of the country when ambitious and enterprising young men continue to make their home at the place of their birth, feeling that it would be difficult to find a more favorable location. Such has been the experience of Walter F. Mar-s-den, who continues to reside on the old home farm

of two hundred and seventy-eight acres in Columbus City township. He was born October 22, 1878, a son of W. P. and Julia E. (Baker) Marsden. The father was a successful farmer of this township and in 1903 retired with his wife at Columbus City where they are now living. There were six children in their family: Charles, Nellie and Harry, all of whom died in infancy; Maud, who is married and lives in Columbus City; William Archie, who lives at Seattle, Washington; and Walter F., our subject.

Mr. Marsden whose name stands at the head of this sketch attended the common schools and as he grew to manhood was instructed by his father in the various details pertaining to agriculture and stock-raising. After the retirement of his father from active labor the son assumed management of the farm and has succeeded admirably as is indicated by the prosperous appearance of everything pertaining to the place. He raises cereals and makes a specialty of Shropshire sheep and graded cattle and hogs, receiving handsome returns for his labors.

On January 22, 1902, Mr. Marsden was married to Miss Nellie McRoberts, a daughter of David and May (Smith) McRoberts. Mrs. Marsden was the eldest of seven children, the others being: Walter, who lives in Louisa county; Robert, of Kansas; Hilt, who is a veterinary surgeon at the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa; Alice, who is married and lives in Louisa county; Elsie, the widow of William McFadden, of Washington county; and Ernest, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Marsden are the parents of two children: Harry, who was born April 17, 1905; and Hilda, born October 30, 1906.

Few men in Louisa county are better acquainted with the natural resources and capabilities of this section than Mr. Marsden and he has been able to make use of his knowledge so as to produce very satisfactory results. He is practical and progressive in his methods and is ever willing to assist in forwarding the permanent welfare of the community. Politically he is a republican and firmly believes that this party is founded upon principles which are essential to the preservation of the Union. In religious belief he is a Methodist. Mrs. Marsden is a woman of many attractive characteristics and unites with her husband in making their home a welcome gathering place for a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### WILLIAM P. HUNT.

One of the prosperous agriculturists of Morning Sun township is William P. Hunt, who was born in Louisa county on the 23d of January, 1862. His parents were Stephen G. and Josephine (Curran) Hunt, the father a native of Wayne county, Indiana, and the mother of Maryland. They were among the pioneer settlers of Louisa county, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits and where they passed away.

William P. Hunt has spent his entire life in Louisa county, in whose common schools he obtained his education. After laying aside his text-books he engaged with his father in the cultivation of the home farm, remaining with his parents as long as they lived. He has always engaged in farming and now owns one hundred and fifty acres of land on sections 21, 22 and 29, Morning Sun township. Here he carries on general farming but makes a specialty of raising stock, particularly horses and hogs. This business has proven to be most lucrative and Mr. Hunt is recognized as one of the successful and substantial agriculturists of his township.

Mr. Hunt married Miss Mamie E. Nelson of Ringgold county, Iowa, whose parents are both now deceased. He gives his political support to the republican party and has for years served as a school director, the cause of education always finding in him a strong supporter. He is one of the well known citizens of Morning Sun township, where he has lived practically his entire life and has many friends, by whom he is highly regarded.

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### JOHN RONALD.

Descendants of Scotch or Scotch-Irish ancestry in America are to be met with in every state of the Union and it is to their credit that they rank among the most intelligent and progressive people on the continent. Of this number was John Ronald (the name in the early days was spelled Ronalds and in various other ways), who arrived in Indiana in 1820 and for fifty years was actively connected with the development of the west. He was born at Ryegate, Caledonia county, Vermont, July 12, 1799, a son of George and Elizabeth (Smith) Ronald, the former of whom was born in Sterlingshire, Scotland, and the latter in New Hampshire. George Ronald emigrated to America in 1786 and located at Ryegate, Vermont, with Robert Brock, Sr., and his wife and Jean and Elizabeth Miller. Elizabeth Miller was the third wife of James Nelson, of Ryegate, and married Edward Miller about 1780. Mr. Ronald worked for Deacon Andrew Brock at Brook's Mills in Newbury and afterward bought a part of Joseph Smith's farm at Ryegate. In 1789 he married Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of Joseph Smith. In 1795 Mr. Smith sold his farm to Ezekiel Manchester, of Barnet, Vermont, and took up his residence at West Bath, New Hampshire, where his descendants are now living. In 1820 Mr. Ronald came west with his family and settled on Garrison creek, ten miles west of Connersville, Indiana. There he died September 5, 1821, being then in the sixty-first year of his age.

John Ronald, of this review, received his early education in the public schools of Vermont and removed with his parents to Indiana when he was twenty-one years of age. He learned the wagon-maker's trade after arriving in Indiana and also devoted his attention to farming, applying himself with an energy that produced highly satisfactory results. He was a man of excellent ability and was thoroughly capable in everything he undertook. He was greatly respected

by his friends and neighbors and became recognized as one of the progressive and useful men of the community.

On October 10, 1822, Mr. Ronald was married to Miss Martha Killough, a native of South Carolina and a daughter of James and Jane (Hayes) Killough, the former of whom was born in Scotland and the latter in Ireland. They were married in Ireland and came to America, locating in South Carolina, where the mother died. In 1810 Mr. Killough moved to Ohio with his children and he died in that state about two years later. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald became the parents of ten children, three of whom are now living: Mrs. McDill, the eldest, who was born February 23, 1825; Emely, who was born December 3, 1836, and is the wife of J. P. Walker, of Grand View, Iowa; and Caroline, who married Dr. Lilly, of Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Ronald, whose name introduces this sketch, died February 22, 1872, his wife being called away seven years later, in December, 1879. He was a member of the Reformed Presbyterian church and in all the relations of life attempted to perform his whole duty to his family, his associates and his fellowmen. He found in his wife a loving companion and a willing assistant and as parents of a large family they set an example of patience, courage and self-denial well worthy of imitation. Their memory is warmly cherished by all who came within the circle of their influence.

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#### EDWIN S. RABE.

Edwin S. Rabe, who for the past fifteen years has been identified with the Cooperative store of Letts, was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, on the 14th of October, 1869. His parents are Copeland and Ludia A. (Fletcher) Rabe, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Iowa. They were married in the latter state, following which the father purchased a farm in Muscatine county, which he operated until his retirement in 1905. For five years thereafter they resided in West Liberty but they now make their home with their daughter. Six children were born to them: William, who is a resident of Axtell, Kansas; Edwin S., our subject; Jesse, who lives in Haskill, Colorado; Alpha, who is on the old homestead; Zelpha, the wife of Charles Monroe, of West Liberty; and Leila, who became the wife of Chester Grigg, of West Liberty, Iowa.

Reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county, Edwin S. Rabe remained at home until he attained his majority. For three years thereafter he operated a creamery at West Liberty, and then disposing of his interest he ran a cream wagon on a salary for two years. At the expiration of that period he became a clerk in the Cooperative store of Letts, where he has ever since continued to be employed.

Mr. Rabe was united in marriage on the 27th of December, 1897, to Miss Lucille Idle, who was born in Grand View township in 1872 and is a daughter of Frank B. and Mary E. (Brumley) Idle. Her father is a native of Ohio and

her mother of Virginia, but they were married in Iowa. The father engaged in farming until 1901, at which time he retired to Letts, where they continue to reside. Mr. Idle still owns land in the Dakotas and Kansas, however. In his family are the following children: Newton, who is a resident of Boycourt, Kansas; Clara, the wife of H. L. Shear, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Nancy, who married James Small, of Letts, Iowa; Ollie, a resident of Boycourt, Kansas; and Lucille, nor Mrs. Rabe. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Rabe has been blessed by one son, Maurice E., who was born on the 6th of June, 1906.

Mr. Rabe votes with the republican party but is not an office seeker. His fraternal relations are confined to his membership in the Masonic order, and both he and his wife affiliate with the Presbyterian church, among whose congregation they number many friends.

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### CHARLES SCHWEITZER.

Charles Schweitzer, a well known merchant of Louisa county, is successfully engaged in business in association with three of his brothers, conducting a general mercantile establishment at Grand View and also dealing in groceries, meats and queensware at Oakville. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of this county, his birth having occurred in Grand View on the 20th of August, 1880. His parents are Henry and Mary (Piffer) Schweitzer, the former a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and the latter of Louisa county, Iowa. Both are still living, being worthy and respected residents of Grand View. They have eight children, as follows: William E. and Henry H., who make their home at Grand View, Iowa; George E., living in Oakville, this state; Dell Arthur, of Los Angeles, California; Charles, of this review; and Albert, Oscar and Daisy, all of whom are residents of Grand View.

Charles Schweitzer worked on a farm until twenty-five years of age and then embarked in the grocery business in association with three of his brothers. They own a general mercantile store in Grand View and also enjoy a liberal patronage as dealers in groceries, meats and queensware at Oakville, conducting the most extensive establishment of its kind in that town. The brothers are young men of well known enterprise and of resolute purpose, who carry forward to successful completion whatever they undertake.

On the 1st of March, 1905, Mr. Schweitzer was united in marriage to Miss Marcia Chambliss, a daughter of Jeff and Elizabeth Chambliss. They now have two daughters, namely: Vivian, a little maiden of four years; and Loleta, who is one year old. Mr. Schweitzer gives his political allegiance to the democracy, while in religious faith he is a Presbyterian. In the community where his entire life has been spent he enjoys an enviable reputation as a substantial and representative citizen.



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